

TOMORROW

Home thoughts... Charles McKean predicts that houses will be collapsing in the streets if the Government does not step in to improve Britain's housing stock.

From abroad... The latest books about life and politics in the Soviet Union are reviewed by Count Nikolai Tolstoy and Iain Elliott.

Rum... As Jamaica goes to the polls, a report on Edward Seaga's constitutional gamble.

And coke... From Colombia, a disturbing analysis of South America's secret weapon - cocaine.

Candy king... at the Court of St James: Charles Price, the Kansas City candy tycoon who is the new US Ambassador to Britain, is the subject of The Times Profile.

Regional aid shake-up... Radical changes in the pattern of regional aid to industry are proposed in a White Paper from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Industry.

Sterling drops to all-time low... The pound fell below \$1.42 for the first time and weakened against other currencies as speculation over North Sea oil prices combined with the continued strength of the dollar.

Mosley's friend... Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader told interrogators in 1940 that Adolf Hitler was a charming if emotional man who liked him.

Ozal's choice... Turkey's first civilian Cabinet since the 1980 military coup named by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, was approved by President Evren.

Nanny's fires... The paranormal took a back seat at the Italian trial of Scottish nanny Carol Compton as a formidable governess gave evidence on the fires that led to the girl's arrest.

Bowled out... An attempt to hasten the reduction in the number of overseas players in England failed at a Test and County Cricket Board meeting.

Leader page, 13... Letters: On conveying, from Lord Benson; telling the public, from Mr Alex Henney.

Features, pages 10-12... Can the Home Secretary keep his police cell promise? Reagan, adventures abroad hanging at home; Vandals of the Venice. Spectrum: A musician for all seasons.

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Murray's future at stake after his repudiation of NGA

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

The future of Mr Murray as general secretary of the TUC is at stake after his repudiation of support for the National Graphical Association (NGA) led to the abandonment of a planned unlawful one-day strike.

The 51 members of the TUC General Council have been called into emergency session to decide whether the labour movement should back Mr Murray's policy of respect for the law or left-wing union leaders who seek continuing defiance of the Government's trade union legislation.

Both sides were anxiously counting heads last night before the "vote of confidence" on the conduct of Mr Murray which was denounced by the NGA general secretary, Mr Joe Wade, as unprecedented and divisive.

Mr Murray's critics were confident of winning the censure vote, but moderates rallying to his cause were equally sure that they would carry the day.

The planned 24-hour strike in national and local newspapers was suspended yesterday at a meeting of the NGA's governing national council. Afterwards union officials vented their anger at Mr Murray's repudiation of the decision of the TUC employment policy and organization committee to adopt a "supportive" attitude towards the protest strike.

NGA leaders complained about Mr Murray's action in publicly rejecting the committee's nine-to-seven vote in favour of the strike. Mr Wade said: "The dispute will continue, and in the meantime I hope Mr Murray's repudiation of the committee decision will be rejected by the general council."

He predicted that "this unprecedented action" would encourage many more trade unionists to join a mass demonstration in Warrington, Cheshire, this afternoon. It is being organized by the North West TUC to protest against the refusal of Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, chairman of Messenger Group newspapers to reinstate six dismissed NGA workers and grant the union a closed shop.

Mr Shah said yesterday that he is going ahead with suits claiming £90,000 damages from the union to cover the cost of alleged damage done to his printing works at Winwick Quay during mass picketing.

Strike costs 2, Parliament 4, Leading article 13.

that so far has cost the union £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders made under the Employment Acts, 1980 and 1982.

In the High Court in London, injunctions preventing the NGA from reimposing its threatened strike were granted to provincial newspaper groups, including Westminster Press, Essex County Newspapers, Berrows Newspapers, Northern Counties Newspapers, and United Newspapers.

Mirror Group Newspapers became the last Fleet Street publishing house to win a similar order restraining the strike.

Mr Murray will argue that he was compelled to repudiate the committee decision publicly because if he had not done so the TUC would have been risking contempt of court penalties for supporting an unlawful strike and damages possibly amounting to many millions of pounds.

His supporters were suggesting last night a 25-21 majority for the general secretary, but the moderates take part in the vote. Failure to attend by five key backers of Mr Murray's position led to his defeat in the employment committee meeting.



Memorable meeting: The Duchess of Kent in deep conversation with Mr William Wehh (left) and Mr Bertie Pearman, both of Gillingham. She was attending a Christmas party at Buckingham Palace for the Not Forgotten Association.

US and Israeli ships shell Palestinians and Syrians

Scarcely had President Gemayel left Lebanon for Britain yesterday than both the American and Israeli navies launched simultaneous naval bombardments of Palestinian and Syrian Army positions near the Lebanese coast.

Two American guided-missile destroyers steamed off the coast of Beirut, firing a barrage of 5in shells on to Syrian positions in the mountains east of Beirut after the Syrians had earlier fired at American reconnaissance jets while 30 miles to the north Israeli gunboats opened up on Palestinian guerrillas in the northern port of Tripoli.

It was clear that American flights over the Chouf mountains during the afternoon and fired a barrage of 5in shells on to Syrian positions in the mountains east of Beirut after the Syrians had earlier fired at American reconnaissance jets while 30 miles to the north Israeli gunboats opened up on Palestinian guerrillas in the northern port of Tripoli.

Soon afterwards, the USS Tritondrop and another American warship moved close to the shore 12 miles north of the capital and began firing towards the mountains, the shells landing near the snow-line not far from the town of Douar Sheicr where Syrian troops maintain one of their foremost positions.

The Syrians confirmed that their ground fire had been directed at two US F14 jets but described the subsequent American naval fire as a new aggression, claiming rather unconvincingly that it only damaged a military vehicle.

Syrian officials stated after America's air raids just over a week ago that the Syrian Army would continue to shoot at US reconnaissance jets. They appear to have meant what they said.

At almost exactly the same time as the American naval shelling, Israeli gunboats appeared off Tripoli and began firing towards the port area of the city where Mr Yassir Arafat's guerrillas are preparing to be evacuated over the coming fortnight.

Beirut radio reported that the naval bombardment lasted for 45 minutes and that scores of shells fell into the harbour area. The Israelis gave no reason for the barrage but denied a Palestinian claim that one of their vessels had been hit by fire from a PLO long-range gun.

Only a few hours earlier, Palestinian dissidents who are surrounding Mr Arafat's forces in Tripoli had warned that they would resume their siege of the city if the PLO leader did not sail from the port by December 21.

A spokesman at the Palestinian Fatah guerrilla offices in Damascus, undoubtedly echoing Syria's own views, claimed that Mr Arafat was deliberately delaying his own evacuation and that any bloodshed that followed further postponement would be his own responsibility.

Explosives experts partially detonated the device by remote control. As the other suspect packages were discovered dotted along the street, several of them in shops, police cleared the length of the normally busy shopping centre. Dogs trained to sniff out explosives were brought in and the explosives experts, wearing blast-proof clothing and armour, moved from one package to the next. Several were examined using a robot device first developed in Northern Ireland.

At one stage a police helicopter flew overhead using a loud hailer to warn people to keep away from windows and the street was finally reopened just as the day's shopping hours ended. Photograph, page 2

Kinnock and Thatcher clash

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, in the middle of furious Commons exchanges with the Prime Minister over the National Graphical Association dispute, said yesterday that he had no intention of condoning law-breaking.

But he added, after being asked by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to condemn the NGA for contravening the law, that he also had no intention of being a drill sergeant for "divisive and ruinous Tory legislation" which had turned a union problem into a "national industrial volcano".

Mr Kinnock's remarks, which neatly encapsulated the dilemma into which Labour leaders have been placed by the dispute, came after the Prime Minister had refused his demands to intervene by asking the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to convene a committee of inquiry. "She has a direct and absolute responsibility and the huck stops with her", Mr Kinnock said.

The Prime Minister retorted that it was clear that what the Opposition really wanted was the Government to force Mr Selim ("Eddie") Shah, chairman of the Messenger Newspaper group, to give in to the union's unreasonable demands. The British people wanted, and had voted for, the law to uphold the right of employees to reject the closed shop.

She said that the TUC believed in upholding the law. "The law is indivisible. You cannot choose which parts to uphold and which not to uphold." They should all be upheld.

Mr Kinnock accused the Prime Minister of "dodging" her obligations.

Trident bill could rise by £1,375m

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The devaluation of the pound against the dollar could have added £1,375m to the bill for the Trident nuclear deterrent since 1980.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has taken a political decision that Trident costs will not be updated on a regular basis. The latest official costing, of £7,500m, is therefore based on 1981 prices and exchange rates.

But the 1982 defence estimates stated that the September, 1980, costing of £5,990m had been increased by "some £700m" because of the fall of the value of the pound from \$2.36 to \$1.78 in September, 1982.

This year's defence estimates said that 45 per cent of the Trident programme would be spent, in dollars, in the United States "and hence the recent fall in the exchange rate, if sustained throughout the life of the project, would result in increased costs".

The latest exchange rate, of \$1.42 to the pound, represents a further devaluation of more than 20 per cent on the September, 1982, rates used by the Ministry of Defence.

That fall in the value of the pound could represent a further £675m increase in Trident costs, without the price rises which will have resulted from inflation.

The Ministry of Defence emphasized last night that Trident expenditure was not expected to reach a peak until the last few years of the 1980s and, therefore, the effect of the devaluation was not, for the moment, significant. It did say, however, that the range of "uncertainty" in defence spending, resulting from exchange rate fluctuations, was about £100m to £200m a year.

Mr Heseltine told The Times earlier this month that Trident would be a central issue between the Conservatives and Labour at the next election because decisions taken by the next Parliament would affect the independent British nuclear deterrent.

QE2 cruise delayed by engine fault

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

The Queen Elizabeth 2 arrived back from her £4.5 refit in Germany last night eight hours late because of engine trouble. A fault developed in a boiler soon after the 67,000-ton ship left the shipyard at Bremerhaven.

However, Cunard did not blame the Germans for the trouble. Work, it is believed, was carried out on the boilers in Germany - but by British contractors.

The ship anchored in the river outside the yard, and engineers on board carried out repairs.

She docked at Southampton at about midnight. During the delay nearly 1,500 passengers, who were expecting to sail on her five hours earlier, were winched and dined by Cunard in Southampton. She was due to sail at about 4am on a three-day cruise of the English Channel for which passengers had paid between £145 and £565 each.

London fear after IRA bomb

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A Provisional IRA bomb planted close to one of London's main shopping streets and aimed at bringing havoc to Christmas crowds was disarmed by a Scotland Yard explosives team yesterday.

The bomb containing 10lbs or more of commercial explosives attached to a timing device would have created damage for up to 200 yards. It was left against a wall in Phillimore Gardens, just off Kensington High Street shortly before the shopping crowds were swollen by office workers on their lunch break.

Police also had to deal with three other suspect packages in the high street which was closed from midday until after dusk. Police believe the packages may have been deliberately left to sway up police resources and disrupt shopping.

Last night Commander William Huckleby, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist squad, said the disarmed device clearly indicated the start of a Provisional IRA Christmas bombing campaign in London. He repeated earlier warnings to the public to be alert and on the guard.

Mr Huckleby said the bomb was only partially destroyed in a controlled explosion and it was a sophisticated device which "would have devastated an area of up to 200 yards away".

He said that the bomb bore similarities to IRA bombs seen in London in recent years and there was no doubt it was the work of the organization, but he could not say that it was from the same source as a device which damaged the guard house at Woolwich Arsenal last weekend.

Mr Huckleby said the bomb had been left without any warning and the aim was clearly to disrupt Kensington High Street. He said: "It was aimed to do as much damage as possible and to kill indiscriminately."

The bomb was left in a holdall near the entrance of a large block of private flats, Troy Court. It was first seen by a passerby who alerted a traffic warden.

Explosives experts partially detonated the device by remote control. As the other suspect packages were discovered dotted along the street, several of them in shops, police cleared the length of the normally busy shopping centre. Dogs trained to sniff out explosives were brought in and the explosives experts, wearing blast-proof clothing and armour, moved from one package to the next. Several were examined using a robot device first developed in Northern Ireland.

At one stage a police helicopter flew overhead using a loud hailer to warn people to keep away from windows and the street was finally reopened just as the day's shopping hours ended. Photograph, page 2

Kamikaze attack feared at Los Angeles Games

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The latest car bombings in Kuwait have raised concern among United States security officials that terrorist groups may use "human bombs" to carry out future kamikaze-style attacks on Americans and other Western targets.

A report in the Washington Post yesterday quoted Administration officials as saying that the use of fanatics seeking martyrdom in suicide attacks had "opened up a whole new spectrum of violence".

The officials said they were on the look-out for "human bombs, people walking around with TNT strapped to their bodies".

Although United States officials are mainly concerned about further suicide attacks in the Middle East, where the radical Shia Muslims believed responsible for the recent attacks are based, they are also concerned that outbreaks of kamikaze-style terrorism may be attempted in the United States.

They pointed out that two months ago an Israeli tourist was arrested in the public gallery of the House of Representatives with explosives strapped to his body.

Recently lorries, cars and other obstacles were used to block off entrances to the White House and the State Department after a warning that a car-bomb attack was being planned.

American officials are particularly concerned that the forthcoming Olympic Games in Los Angeles or the World's Fair in New Orleans could be singled out for terrorist attacks. They said it was almost impossible to guarantee protection of such events against suicide bombers.

Thatcher faces setback over vital defence job

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Prime Minister is expected tonight to suffer a reverse in the management of her party in Parliament when Conservative backbench defence specialists choose a chairman for the all-party Select Committee on Defence.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's candidate is Sir Humphrey Atkins, whom she has long sought to reward for his service as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and his resignation from the Foreign Office with his ministerial colleagues, Lord Carrington and Mr Richard Luce, at the time of the Falkland invasion.

However, most of the seven Conservatives nominated to the committee opposed him on the grounds that he has shown little interest in defence, in

the work of all Commons select committees, and decides which supply estimates are debated by the Commons. Its chairman, formerly Mr Edward De Caux, has potentially one of the most influential backbench voices, and most Prime Ministers probably would prefer a tame incumbent.

If Sir Humphrey is kept out of the defence post he cannot have the patronage which he and Mrs Thatcher will be twice failed.

There are MPs in all parties who hope this will happen. Those who want the departmental committees, first set up in the last Parliament, to be effective monitors of the executive believe experience is essential and that every committee should choose its chairman from those who have already given some service.



Contenders (from left): Mr Michael Mates, Mr Michael Marshall, Sir Humphrey Atkins, Mr Winston Churchill.

in spite of service in the Royal Navy. Labour's three nominees share these doubts.

Many MPs even say Mrs Thatcher would like this potentially critical committee to have a chairman who will give her little trouble.

Most of the nominees advocate strong defences for Britain, and the committee, if vigorously led, might form an



Quality in an age of change.

# New regional aid policy to favour service industries

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sweeping changes in the way aid is given to industry in poorer areas of the country are proposed in a government White Paper published yesterday. The creation of new criteria for handing out public funds in the depressed areas, and emphasis will be shifted from manufacturing to service industries.

In future all grants will be subject to a cost-per-job ceiling, although this will not apply to small companies and the Government expects that the proposed changes, coupled with a redrawn map of assisted areas, will cut the amount of money spent on regional aid.

A key point in the White Paper is the Government's belief in the "natural adjustment of labour markets". It calls for lower wages and unit costs in areas of high unemployment. "Wage flexibility, combined with a reputation for good work and a constructive attitude to productivity and industrial relations, would increase the attractiveness to industry of areas with high unemployment."

Legislation to be introduced early in the new year will move the emphasis of regional aid away from automatic grants to factories where new machinery is being installed to individual projects which create or expand capacity.

Total spending on regional assistance in 1982-83 was £917m, of which £690m was in regional development grants. The White Paper, presented by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, proposes that this proportion be reduced, and that the bias towards manufacturing industry be removed in favour of the service sectors.

Ministers believe that activities such as insurance or production of computer software are more likely to create jobs and set down roots in the assisted areas than capital-intensive heavy manufacturing.

The embryonic new regional policy is part of the Government's rejuvenated approach towards the nation's industrial redevelopment and its attempts to grapple with the widespread structural changes in the economy that have been accelerated by recession.

The White Paper's proposals tie in with the recent submission by the Treasury to the National Economic Development Council that manufacturing employment will continue to decline in favour of the private service sector.

The White Paper says that the Government wants to encourage greater geographical and occupational mobility by making the planning system more sensitive to changing needs, through housing policies and portable pensions.

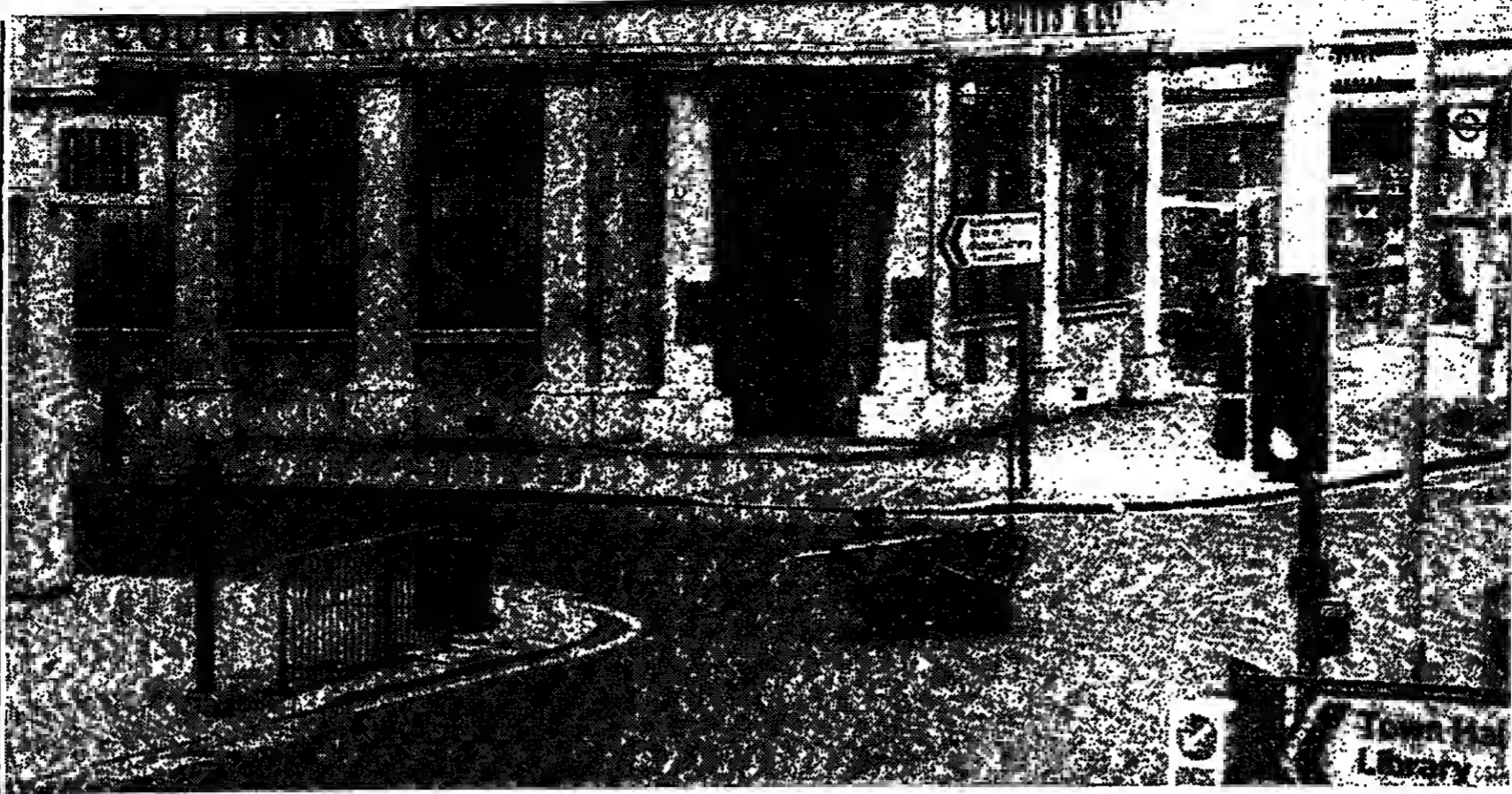
But it concedes that labour mobility cannot be relied on as a solution "as it tends to be the young, the more skilled and the more enterprising who are ready to move in search of work, possibly leaving the less-favoured localities with a still more dependent population and a workforce less able to climb out of disadvantage."

Despite several years of study of regional aid, the White Paper is largely a consultative document and raises many more questions than it answers. It calls for submissions by the end of next May on many matters including which activities should qualify for regional development grants, the rates of the grants, the balance between automatic and selective assistance, and the criteria for designating assisted areas.

In particular, it invites views on the assisted area map, now being seriously out of date after the big rise in unemployment. The present three-tier map shows intermediate areas as being mostly in the South-west, North Wales and the North-east, development areas in Cornwall, north and South Wales and the Scottish Highlands, and special development areas centred on Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne, Merseyside, Anglesey and Glamorgan.

The new map has been postponed until next autumn to allow the Department of Employment time to collate data on travel-to-work areas from the 1981 census. The White Paper says: "A tightly drawn map would focus assistance on the areas of greatest need; a wider coverage would allow assistance to go to more areas with real, but untapped, potential for industrial development."

One of the first reactions to the White Paper came from Sir Campbell Fraser, president of the Confederation of British Industry. He said that regional policy should make sure that areas such as the West Midlands, which is not in an assisted area, enjoyed equal treatment.



A bomb-disposal robot in Kensington High Street after Christmas shoppers were cleared yesterday (Photograph: John Evans)

## Rise in work accident deaths

By David Cross

The number of people killed in accidents in industry has risen for the first time in several years. Mr James Hammer, Chief Inspector of Factories, said yesterday.

He blamed the rise in fatal accidents from 236 in 1981 to 256 in 1982 partly on an increase in maintenance work by outside contractors. Too often, outside contractors, unfamiliar with the equipment they were servicing, worked without proper control or supervision, he said.

The latest report on health and safety in manufacturing and servicing industries, which Mr Hammer was introducing, showed that during the three years from 1980 24 per cent of fatal accidents within the responsibility of the factory inspectorate involved maintenance work. Most of the deaths were in factories (110) and in the construction industry (129). The increased use of outside contractors was accompanied with reduced manning levels in

many companies, Mr Hammer said. Another important cause of deaths in industry last year was road and internal transport, particularly heavy goods vehicles and fork-lift trucks. More than a quarter of accidents and a fifth if fatalities involved the use of vehicles.

On one steelworks, for example, a survey of 11 haulage contractors' vehicles found that that nine were unfit for use on the highway but were kept for use in the works. The defects were due to neglect rather than to particular conditions on the site, the report said.

The factory inspectorate was also concerned at the increasing

number of businesses failing to register with the authorities. With a trend towards smaller companies, owners often had too little capital and too little knowledge of safety requirements, the report said.

A further difficulty arose with small new businesses which kept moving addresses. Mr Hammer characterized them as over staying their welcome in any one place, having a high turnover of employees, very poor working conditions "and a very aggressive attitude towards inspectors".

The inspectorate was looking into ways of making a more systematic search for unregistered companies, he said.

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Manufacturing	157	147	123	105	120
Construction	121	119	128	88	97
Port and inland water	13	14	9	8	9
Other	29	35	34	25	30
All industries	320	315	294	236	256

## Strike could have bankrupted NGA

By Rupert Morris

The National Graphical Association, whose assets are estimated to be worth up to £11m, would have faced the possibility of bankruptcy if it had proceeded with its threatened strike in national and local newspapers yesterday.

On top of the fines for contempt of court totalling £675,000, the printing union is liable for a further £200,000 in sequestrators' costs since November 25 - a sum rising by between £10,000 and £12,500 every day.

The union's 24-hour stoppage of national newspapers on November 25 led to injunctions and damages claims from 12 publishers amounting to £3m.

Yesterday's threatened strike would have led to a similar damages claim from Fleet Street for £3m, plus a claim from local newspapers publishers which

might have totalled anything between £1m and £3m.

Large newspaper groups such as Westminster Press and United Newspapers would have been able to claim the £25,000 maximum damages. Certain leading individual titles such as the Birmingham Evening Mail or Yorkshire Post might also have been able to claim the maximum.

A further cost that may yet be laid at the union's door is the extra administration for the sequestrators involved in tracking down union branch accounts and local assets.

The union also faces a writ for damages of more than £90,000 which Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah, chairman of the Messenger Newspapers group in Cheshire, is bringing because of damage to his building allegedly caused by unlawful picketing.

## Four sequestrators who stay resolutely aloof

By Thomson Prentice

High in a 25-storey office block overlooking the Thames, four men were computing the cash figures of the National Graphical Association yesterday and remaining resolutely aloof from the latest salvoes in the industrial dispute.

The building contains the offices of Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm. The company has 187 partners in Britain, including 103 based in London. For the past two weeks four of them have had one client only in the courts.

Since November 30, when the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson, made the sequestration order, the four partners have been trying to track down every penny of the NGA's assets, in total more than £11m.

The yave large powers enabling them to do so. If ever in doubt, they can, and do, turn for guidance to volume 17 of Halsbury's Laws of England, whose editor-in-chief is the Lord Chancellor, Lord Haldham, of St Marylebone.

"Halsbury's is our Bible in these matters", a Price Waterhouse official said yesterday. Volume 17 defines sequestration as "a remedy of last resort to enforce a judgment or order which requires a person to abstain from doing a specified act".

In taking possession of property under a writ, the sequestrators "are not expected to use force. They may, however, break inner doors or boxes to get possession."

## Nuclear safety warning

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Leaders of 60,000 emergency service workers yesterday threatened to withdraw cover over big nuclear accidents unless safety measures were not radically improved.

Firemen and ambulance workers were not trained or equipped to tackle dangerous leaks such as those at Three Mile Island in the United States, representatives said.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, which represents ambulancemen, and Mr Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said there should be a full public debate on the issue.

The two were speaking as part of a grouping of five unions and eight local authorities formed to lodge a protest at the inquiry over plan to build a pressurized water reactor power station at Sizewell.

He had little difficulty on Monday in brushing aside Viktor Korchnoi's feeble defence and winning after only 30 moves.

Now the score is Kasparov 5½ Korchnoi 3½, which means that Kasparov needs only one more point from the remaining three games to win and qualify for the final of the candidates series of matches.

Kasparov opened with the Catalan System, the sixth time this variation has been employed in the match. Korchnoi's defence was the reverse of impressive. He played a line that resulted in the exchange of his Queen's Bishop, for White's King Bishop, but that left him even weaker on the white squares of the long diagonal.

Kasparov took energetic advantage of Korchnoi's anti-positional play to place enormous pressure on his opponent's Queen's wing. By move 24 he had won a Rook for a Knight and the game was practically over.

Korchnoi played on hopelessly for another six moves and then resigned.

It is most unlikely that Korchnoi will recover from this setback and he is already quite clearly a beaten man.

The tenth game of the match between Vassily Smyslov and Zaitan Rbbl should have been played yesterday but was postponed at the request of Smyslov, who exercised his right to take a time out.

This game will be played tomorrow, and with the score at Smyslov 5½, Rbbl 3½. If Smyslov wins the game he also wins the match. The Korchnoi-Kasparov match will be resumed today.

Ninth game  
White: Kasparov, Black: Korchnoi  
QP Catalan System

## Top Tories aided MEP on Ulster report

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

Senior Conservatives helped Mr Niels Haagerup, the Danish Liberal MEP, to prepare his report on Northern Ireland for the European Parliament, even though Mrs Thatcher made it clear that the Government would not cooperate with him.

Mr Haagerup said yesterday that he had no difficulty in getting information for his report, which details the background to the present situation and suggests ways in which the EEC might help.

He said he had talks with all four British political parties, although he refused to give names because of the Government's refusal to have any official contact with him. He also said he had discreet help from government officials in collecting facts.

"The position of the British Government in this is part of the problem," he said, "but that is a problem for the British Government and not for me."

Lady Elles, the leading Conservative MEP on the Political Affairs Committee, said yesterday that although his report still objected to the report many of the fears expressed about it had been unjustified.

The group would, however, table amendments to the report about extradition.

The Israelis' methods for beating terrorists will be studied by the Democratic Unionist Party at the start of a fact-finding mission into international terrorism next year.

A gathering will visit Jerusalem to see how Israel protects its frontier as the party wants security along the border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland tightened.

## £885m Severn barrage plan

Proposals for a combined second Severn crossing and tidal power generating barrage at a privately financed cost of £885m are being considered by the Department of Energy after restrictions on the use of the Severn Bridges.

The department is considering a £7,000m plan, still in its early stages, for a barrage to be constructed across the Severn.

The new scheme, prepared by Wimpey Atkins, was explained to MPs at the Commons yesterday.

## Weapon clue in Jones killing

A weapon resembling an ice pick was used to kill the disgraced former Lord Chancellor, Lord Haldham, of St Marylebone.

The police think that the unusual nature of the weapon, which almost certainly resembled an ice pick, a mining hammer, or a roof tiler's hammer, may help them to identify the killer.

## Farm warning

Life will be much tougher for farmers in the next few years, Professor Ronald Bell, the newly-appointed director general of the Government's Agricultural Development and Advisory Service told a press conference yesterday.

"Farmers need to address themselves to what the customer wants".

## Police hold three

Three men wanted for questioning in connection with an attempted robbery on a Post Office van south of Bristol two weeks ago were arrested by more than 20 police in a raid on a guesthouse in Plymouth early yesterday. A shot was fired during the raid.

## Pact aimed at Soviet Union

## How West controls high-tech exports

In the wake of the Second World War the United States and 14 of its allies (the Nato countries, excluding Iceland and Spain, as well as Japan, which joined in the early 1950s) have formed an informal pact to restrict the export of goods and equipment able to enhance the military and strategic standing of the Eastern bloc.

The organization, called the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (CoCom), is based in Paris. Through its guidance, lists of restricted exports are published. The British guidelines are published through the Department of Trade and Industry. A guide to Exports Controls outlines six areas of exports which are sensitive and subject to control: national security, nuclear non-proliferation, animal warfare, national heritage, conservation of supplies,

and others subject to international agreement. They are not all the subject of CoCom interest, which is largely concerned with the high-technology sector under the heading of "national security". The present guidelines say: "Controls do not apply to the export of goods from the UK. Only certain goods are affected... strategically sensitive high-technology industrial goods such as chemical and petroleum equipment, electrical and electronic equipment (including computers), scientific apparatus and instruments..."

The decision to approve the export is based on three factors: strategic, where the Ministry of Defence is advised; diplomatic, where the Foreign Office is consulted; and economic, where the Department of Trade makes its own decisions.

Goods bound for the Soviet Union, Albania, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, North Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia and Communist China are liable to scrutiny. The Department of Trade and Industry guidelines say: "It may be necessary for the Department to seek the approval of the international coordinating committee (CoCom) before an export licence is issued".

The United States is particularly anxious in inhibiting the export of high-technology products and has attempted to expand the restrictions list.

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## Caesarian births double

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Women having a baby are more than twice as likely to have a Caesarian section than they were a decade ago, despite the growing pressure for natural childbirth, according to a report from the Maternity Alliance published yesterday.

A survey by the alliance shows that about one in nine mothers (10.6 per cent) now has a Caesarian section.

The survey to which more than 80 per cent of maternity hospitals and one in five consultant obstetricians replied,

suggests that the reasons for the increase include medical staff fears of litigation in the event of the birth of a handicapped child and a shortage of staff experienced in difficult deliveries.

The report says health authorities should monitor Caesarian section birth rates, that research should be undertaken to examine the psychological and emotional effects on mothers and babies.

One birth in nine Maternity Alliance, 309 Kentish Town Road, London NW5; £2.00.



### Can you be happy this Christmas knowing he isn't?

While most children can look forward to presents, family parties and a happy Christmas, there are many with little to look forward to.

That's why we try especially hard to give these deprived and often homeless children a little extra fun and happiness over the Christmas period.

To be able to do this, however, we need you to give a little.

Even a small donation at this time can make all the difference to a child's Christmas. And to how we can care for them throughout the year. So please send something to us now at the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
282  
To: Church of England Children's Society, Prospect, London SE21 4DR.

## The Children's Society.

## Greenham protest complaint rejected

A complaint about a report in *The Times* of a demonstration against Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, was not upheld by the Press Council today.

The council said it was not satisfied that it was inaccurate to report that some women peace protesters punched and pushed the minister.

Ms Daphne Francis, of Glen of Newmill, Keith, Banffshire, who had seen a news item on television about the demonstration, complained to the Press Council that *The Times* had failed to correct its account.

Ms Francis produced statements from women at the Greenham Common peace camp who had been present at the scene at Newbury Town Hall, where Mr Heseltine was visiting Conservative Party workers.

Ms Judy Harris said a group of policemen suddenly charged through with Mr Heseltine in the middle of them. Some of the policemen tripped over women who were lying in the path, and Mr Heseltine, trapped inside the police circle, fell with them.

Ms Annie Butcher said at one point Mr Heseltine tripped over the foot of one of the policemen who was with him, which was the incident which had been described as women pulling him to the ground.

Ms Francis said the women were not violent, and that suggestions that they were could damage the women's peace movement in the long run.

Mr Colin Webb, deputy editor of *The Times*, said it would be difficult, probably impossible, to differentiate seriously between the degree of molestation that occurred in what was obviously a very confused situation. Three newspapers, including *The Times*, used the words "punched" and from those reports, and from

## Sale room £32,400 for Hilliard miniature

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Duke of Beaufort had consigned for sale 16 of the portrait miniatures in Christie's auction yesterday and bidding made it very clear that that collectors were after quality.

A Nicholas Hilliard miniature was sold for £32,400 (estimate £20,000-£30,000) to Limer, but another miniature by an assistant in Hilliard's studio failed to find a buyer and was bought in at £520.

The Hilliard miniature depicts a beautiful young girl of 16. Her complexion has faded to white but the charm of the flowers in her hair, the lace, jewels and honeycomb on her dress made bidders go for it.

The National Portrait Gallery secured a handsome-sized miniature of Henry, Lord Capell of Tewkesbury by John Hoskins for £14,640 (estimate £8,000-£12,000). Lord Capell planted an exotic garden at Kew, later to become the Royal Botanic Gardens.

There were two portraits by the most distinguished miniaturist working at the British court between Holbein and Hilliard, whose identity is still in doubt; Christie's followed Sir Roy Strong by using the name Levinia Terzine, a Flemish artist of the time.

One miniature of a court lady, possibly Lady Jane Grey, sold for £29,160 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000). A smaller head made £5,184 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000).

The miniature sale totalled £230,099 with 11 per cent unsold. The Beaufort miniatures made £184,652 of the total.



## Kasparov brushes aside feeble defence to win

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov, aged 20, the Russian chess player looks certain to win his match to the Acorn Computers World championship semi-final in London.

He had little difficulty on Monday in brushing aside Viktor Korchnoi's feeble defence and winning after only 30 moves.

Now the score is Kasparov 5½ Korchnoi 3½, which means that Kasparov needs only one more point from the remaining three games to win and qualify for the final of the candidates series of matches.

## Phantoms get overhaul

The first of 15 Phantom supersonic fighters which the Royal Air Force is buying from the United States Navy for £46m are beginning a six-month overhaul to extend their operational life.

The RAF needs the aircraft to offset the one squadron of its Phantoms which has been stationed in the Falkland Islands.

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# 69% of house-owners 'want conveyancing monopoly to be ended'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

A national survey conducted for the Consumers' Association this month indicates that 69 per cent of house-owners believe that it would be good if people other than solicitors were allowed to convey property.

It also emerges from the survey, conducted by Marplan among more than 1,400 people, that 46 per cent of those questioned think that the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly should be changed, compared with 20 per cent who think the monopoly is a good thing, 13 per cent who have doubts about it, and 20 per cent who have no opinion.

Of 899 house-owners in the sample, 52 per cent believe that the system should be changed.

The results of the survey were announced at a press conference yesterday by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, whose House Buyers Bill has its second reading on Friday. He said that the figures indicated that public opinion was overwhelmingly in favour. That was essential when fighting a vested interest.

Mr Mitchell said he believed that it was "touch and go" whether there would be a majority for the Bill on its second reading. "I think the prospects are 50-50".

The Bill is supported by the Labour Party, for which it is a manifesto commitment, and, according to Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative MP for Norfolk Mid, one of the Bill's sponsors, has the support of many senior government ministers as well as a hard core of Conservative MPs.

"It would surprise and disappoint me if their view did not prevail. I would be disappointed if the Government did not come out in its favour", Mr Ryder added.

A further boost to its hopes lies with a commitment of support from the leaders of the three opposition parties, Mr Neil Kinnock, Mr David Steel, and Dr David Owen.

Mr Kenneth Weetch, Labour MP for Ipswich, another sponsor, is optimistic that they will win a majority.

He thought that on a free vote of the full House the Bill would have a handsome majority, but the difficulty was that the second reading takes place on the last Friday of the session when many MPs will want to be away to their constituencies.

Mr Kenneth Trench, the Consumers' Association legal officer, said he believed the Marplan survey indicated that there was

a big majority of people looking for the kind of changes that the Bill would produce.

He added that one monopoly must not be replaced by another. He did not want the right to convey property merely extended to solicitors working for building societies or banks. There must be outside competition.

"Only when conveyancing becomes genuinely competitive, with properly licensed non-solicitors as well as solicitors, banks and building societies all undertaking conveyancing, will consumers get the choice they so clearly want and our system of house transfer begin to move into the twentieth century", he said.

The House Buyers Bill is intended to speed and make cheaper and more efficient the system of buying and selling houses by stimulating competition.

Mr Richard Ottaway, Conservative MP for Nottingham North and a solicitor, has decided to risk the wrath of the Law Society by voting for the House Buyers Bill on second reading (Philip Webster writes).

He said yesterday that he believes it is in the public interest to have more competition.



Concerted effort: Cassie Bell and Hiroko Nagano from Fitzjohns primary school, Hampstead, London, who were among 2,000 London schoolchildren who joined numerous stars for a carol-singing concert at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday to raise money for the charity Motability. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst.)

# Equipment not available Satellite TV scheme is in disarray

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The Government's plans for beaming television programmes directly into homes via a satellite are in disarray. Today the companies due to build the satellite will be seeing Department of Trade and Industry ministers in the hope of rescuing the project.

The project, envisaged towards the end of the last decade, was to have had a high-powered satellite beaming five channels directly into the home by 1986 via a roof-mounted dish-aerial. Last year, the BBC agreed to take two of the channels, using a satellite to be built by a consortium of British Aerospace, GEC-Marconi, and British Telecom.

Two things, however, have happened to throw those plans into confusion.

First, the BBC in the last six months has begun to have doubts. There has been increasing concern about whether sufficient viewers would subscribe to enable the BBC to recoup construction costs of £170m plus the £180m it will cost to run the service over the satellite's seven-year life.

Second, one of the leading British consumer electronics manufacturers, Thorne-EMI, told the Government that equipment to receive the programmes would not be available in sufficient quantity and at the right price until 12 months after the BBC satellite launch.

To add to that, the Independent Broadcasting Authority was told in September that commercial television companies could also broadcast by satellite from 1987. Unlike the BBC, however, they would not

be tied to using a British-built satellite. They could, that is, shop around for the best deal.

Having considered matter for several months, the BBC is now terrified of the consequences of taking the wrong decision. On the one hand, going ahead amid uncertainty could invite bankruptcy; on the other, it could find itself leading the commercial companies in a new generation of broadcasting.

On Monday this week the BBC's chairman, Mr Stuart Young, and the Director-General, Mr Alisdair Milne, told Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, of their worries. Tomorrow the BBC is expected to make its final decision at a board meeting. Much will depend on whether Mr Brittan offered government help or concessions.

Finally, the wild card in the pack is the advent of a different kind of satellite broadcasting that uses a cheaper satellite of much lower power to send programmes not directly into homes but to cable television operators. They would then redistribute programmes on their networks. Cable operators would be obliged to carry all satellite channels, including the BBC's but the corporation has little idea so far what charges the cable operators would levy.

One possible way out of the dilemmas being canvassed in the industry is to have just one satellite system operated jointly by the BBC, IBA, and possibly the Irish operators.

Computer rejected The Independent Television Companies Association has rejected the idea of launching its own microcomputer in competition with the BBC's. The endorsement of such a product would have been a breach of the Broadcasting Act and could have robbed the network of competitive advertising.

# BL Montego named after Ford saloon

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The BL car with the code-name LM1, to be launched in April, will be called the Montego.

The name has been registered by Ford and used on one of its big Mercury saloons made in Detroit in the early 1970s. It is understood, however, that Ford has given Austin Rover permission to use the name in Britain and Europe.

Sneak pictures of the Montego, a challenger to Ford's Sierra and Vauxhall's Cavalier in the market's key upper-medium ranges, were taken by a German photographer at the Gaydon proving ground, a former airfield, near Warwick.

The gap, through which the pictures were obtained has been closed with an earth screen. A similar screen has been put up to shield another part of Gaydon where cars would be visible.

BL wants to build a £10m

high-speed test track at Gaydon to accelerate development on new cars for Austin Rover, Jaguar and Land-Rover. It is seeking planning permission for a 3½-mile, three-lane circuit with steeply banked turns at the end of long straights. Most of the circuit would be below ground level to reduce noise.

A further 174 acres have been bought from a farmer to extend the present 770-acre site which is restricted to endurance and reliability testing. For high-speed work it has had to rent the Motor Industry Research Association's centre near Nuncaton, Warwickshire.

## £1,000 turkey

A turkey weighing 77lb 7oz was sold for £1,000 in aid of charity in London yesterday. It was produced by Dale Turkeys of Ludlow, Shropshire.

# Actor had liver disease

John Le Mesurier, the actor, suffered from cirrhosis of the liver, an inquest was told yesterday.

Dr Alexander Gibson, pathologist, said tests had failed to link the cirrhosis entirely with the actor's history of "moderate to severe alcoholic intake on occasions". Mr Le Mesurier, Sergeant Wilson in the television comedy series *Dad's Army*, died last month, aged 71.

Dr Gibson told the hearing in Broadstairs, Kent, that he would give Mr Le Mesurier, of London Road, Ramsgate, the benefit of the doubt.

Dr Gibson gave the cause of death as gastro-intestinal haemorrhage and cryptogenic cirrhosis, which might be associated with a previous hepatitis. The coroner, Miss Rebecca Cobb, recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

# Doctors' skills 'wasted' BMA seeks hospital cash shift

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Waiting lists could be shortened, money saved and patients given better and quicker treatment by shifting resources from hospitals to family doctor services, the British Medical Association's general practitioners committee said yesterday.

In a report on the state of general practice, the general medical services committee argues that family doctor services have been neglected and doctors' skills wasted, despite governments' commitment to the idea of care to the community.

The share of National Health Service resources spent on family doctor services has fallen from 10 per cent in the 1950s to about 6 per cent, the report says.

Dr John Ball, committee chairman, said that shifting the balance of care and resources from hospitals to family doctors

would mean treatment could be given more economically and effectively.

Doctors could undertake much more minor surgery, reducing waiting lists and the time and money spent on hospital referrals. Many repeat visits by outpatients for diabetes, hypertension and chest disorders could be handled by family doctors, as could paediatric surveillance, the checks on children's development up to the age of five.

With more nursing and other staff chronically ill and elderly patients could be better cared for at home, releasing hospital beds.

Such developments, Dr Ball said, would relieve hospitals of burdens they do not need to carry.

At present, he said, hospitals were sending home patients more quickly, adding to the work of family doctors, but

resources were not being given to general practice to meet the extra work.

"Many brave statements are made about transferring care to the community." But although the Government was prepared to transfer the responsibility and the obligation, it was not ready to transfer resources to enable the job to be done properly, he said.

At the same time false economies were being made as hospitals sent in patients with only two days' supply of drugs, or minimum amounts of dialysis fluid for kidney patients using the ambulatory dialysis technique. That reduced hospitals' spending, but saved the NHS nothing as family doctors had then to prescribe the medication.

General Practice, A British Success (British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP; £5).

# National straw fire rules urged

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

National controls on straw burning, with no variations in local by-laws and with substantially increased penalties for transgression, are being called for by the National Association of Local Councils.

In a letter to Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, the council, which represents some 7,500 parish, town and community councils in England and Wales, calls for an urgent research and survey programme into other methods of straw disposal.

In the meantime the National Farmers' Union code of practice should be tightened to include a restriction on burning within 100 yards of any road or a neighbour's boundary. Fire brigades should be empowered to levy charges on landowners responsible for fires.

However, the council concedes that many of its members doubt the effectiveness of any control measures and feel that the only solution is a total ban. Despite the NFU's public protests to such a ban.

At the Royal Smithfield Show last week there was considerable interest in a number of new machines for chopping straw into small enough pieces to be incorporated into the soil without inhibiting the new crop.

# Husband admits killing

Peter Reyn-Bardt told Chester Crown Court yesterday that he killed his wife more than 20 years ago during an argument over money.

Reyn-Bardt, a former British Overseas Airways Corporation official, who denies murdering his wife Malika, said he had dismembered her body with an axe at the cottage he shared with a homosexual friend.

The prosecution has claimed that Mr Reyn-Bardt, aged 57, of Crompton Court, Knightsbridge, west London, confessed to killing the woman after the discovery of a human skull in May.

He allegedly told detectives that he strangled her at Heathfield Cottage in Wilmslow, Cheshire, and cut her with an axe before burying the remains. The court has been told that Mrs Reyn-Bardt was last seen alive in October, 1960, and that she had threatened to expose her husband's homosexuality and disgrace him.

Peter Goodwright, the impressionist, bought the cottage only months after the alleged killing, the court was told. Mr Goodwright said in a statement that his gardening was limited to mowing the lawn and weeding the beds, but in the two-and-a-half years he spent in the cottage he did not see any bones of any description. The trial continues today.

# Blondel moves to West End

The musical *Blondel*, which opened the Old Vic, London, under its new Canadian ownership last month, has turned into a surprise hit. The show had poor reviews but it has proved such a success with audiences that it will transfer indefinitely to the Adelphi on January 20.

It will be replaced at the Old Vic by David Pownall's *Masterclass*, starring Timothy West.

# Lucky 16,609 for marathon

Letters were posted yesterday to the 16,609 British runners whose applications to take part in the 1984 London Marathon have been accepted. A further 50,000 have been rejected.

The UK runners will be joined on May 13 by nearly 900 recognized athletes and 2,500 overseas competitors. The race director, Mr Christopher Brasher, said there was a record entry.

# Airports' £32m

A £32.5m investment programme at Manchester, East Midlands, Bournemouth, Carlisle, Norwich, Southampton, Bristol, Teesside, Cardiff, Luton, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Humberside airports has been approved for 1984-85. Mr David Mitchell, Under-Secretary of State, Transport said yesterday.

# Arthritis drug banned

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Health ministers yesterday suspended the licence of the anti-arthritis drug Flosint, after the deaths of seven patients taking it and reports of serious side-effects, including internal bleeding, in 200 more.

The drug, launched in the United Kingdom in September last year and sold by the Italian-owned Farmitalia Carlo Erba, based in Hertfordshire, is the third anti-arthritis drug to be taken off the UK market in the past 18 months.

An estimated 75,000 patients have been prescribed the drug and about 10,000, mainly elderly, are believed to be taking it now. The drug was due to be discussed by the Committee on Safety of Medicines on Thursday, but the department said that in view of the "urgent concern about safety" ministers decided they had no alternative but to suspend the drug immediately.

The committee has received reports of side-effects in 217 patients, including seven deaths, but it suspects the true rate of serious side-effects is higher. Patients using Flosint should consult their family doctors, the department said. The suspension of Flosint comes after the removal from the market last year of Open after the deaths of 76 patients.



Mr Henderson: Objects to defence policy.

# Backing for protest poet

Mr Hamish Henderson, the Scottish poet who made public his reasons for refusing the offer of an OBE in the forthcoming New Year's Honours, has received hundreds of messages of support for his action.

Mr Henderson, aged 64, of Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies, said that he had decided to break the customary silence surrounding royal patronage after a meeting last week of Scottish Writers Against the Bomb.

In his reply to the offer, he wrote: "Please inform the Prime Minister that in view of the fact that her suicidal defence policies, organized in collusion with the Americans and their crazy, trigger-happy President, are putting at risk the continued survival of the human species of this planet, I cannot possibly see my way to accepting this honour."

Mr Henderson, who served throughout the Italian campaign during the Second World War, said that the only government he could have envisaged accepting such an honour from would have been the Labour Administration of 1945.

A Downing Street official said last night "It is his right to refuse".

# Skinheads jailed for attacking soldiers

Four skinheads who fought with Scots Guards bandmen at a summer fête on Carlisle racecourse were jailed yesterday.

Judge Temple, at Carlisle Crown Court, gave them terms of six to fifteen months. He said: "There developed a most ugly and obscene episode. It was an outrage, it was disgraceful and it was an abomination."

He said the guards were attacked by a mob of young men who were "fighting drunk".

Eleven bandmen went to hospital with head wounds and broken bones.

The judge added: "Grown men as well as young children were terrified at what took place."

Five men had admitted causing an affray while nine others admitted taking part in an unlawful assembly.

Among those who admitted the affray was Private Stuart Stewart, aged 19, serving with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment at Catterick. The judge deferred sentence on him until April.

The nine who admitted unlawful assembly, were given community service orders.

Meanwhile, two men went on trial yesterday accused of taking part in the incident.

# Guess who's coming to dinner?



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# Government still keeping out of newspaper row

## NGA DISPUTE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, reaffirmed in the Commons that the Government would not intervene in the dispute between the Messenger Group and the National Graphical Association and that it upheld the right of the individual to reject a closed shop. She rejected a request by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, that Acas should be asked to set up a committee of inquiry. When Mrs Thatcher asked him to condemn the NGA for contravening the law, Mr Kinnock retorted that he had no intention of condoning breaking of the law but also no intention of being a drill sergeant to divisive and ruinous Tory legislation.

In the exchanges on the dispute Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield North, C) asked Does not the news that the NGA is to picket again at Warrington challenge the whole basis of our democratic values. Surely all of us in this House have a right and duty to protect employees' decisions whether or not to join a closed shop? If we do not do this, we are going to see democracy undermined.

Mrs Thatcher: I am not quite certain whether the NGA have decided to picket again, but I wholly agree that the employees at the Warrington Messenger Group have exercised their right by ballot to reject a closed shop.

They must be protected in the exercise of that right and this dispute is about the NGA attempting to intimidate them nevertheless to join a closed shop. It is not wrong. The law must be seen to protect these employees.

Mr Kinnock: Would she welcome the decision of the NGA to suspend their strike and use the pause it has made available to extend negotiations in order to bring the various parties together to produce a settlement? For instance would she ask Acas to convene a committee of inquiry?

Mrs Thatcher: I utterly condemn it



MacKay: Mr Murray's sensible advice

and uphold their right to reject a closed shop.

Mr Andrew MacKay (East Berkshire, C): There is to be much picketing in Warrington tomorrow (Wednesday) despite Mr Len Murray's sensible advice. It is an act of gross intimidation of innocent workers that Mr Colin Barnett of the North-West Region of the TUC has promised that tomorrow's demonstration will be the largest Warrington has ever seen.

Mrs Thatcher: I understand that there is to be a demonstration tomorrow. I understand that it will be well away from the works. There is a right of peaceful demonstration. Mr Clive Selley (Hammermith, Lab): Many of my constituents have had no post for nearly two weeks. (Conservative laughter) They are deprived of serious and important letters concerning business and hospital appointments, very largely because the Post Office has refused arbitration from Acas.

Is Mrs Thatcher going to continue to underplay the role of Acas so that she can continue her war against the trade unions?

Mrs Thatcher: There is a recognized procedure for conciliation. It is essential that the procedure be followed and the Government will not intervene.

Mr Timothy Yen (South Suffolk, C): The action of the TUC in discouraging the NGA from proceeding with its strike is most welcome and shows a concern for NGA members which the NGA has not shown, and a respect for the law. In that respect, the TUC General Secretary set an example which Mr Kinnock could well emulate.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The TUC believes in upholding the law. It is right in a democracy.

# Legislation soon to recast regional aid

## INDUSTRY

Legislation is to be introduced as soon as possible to provide for new structures for regional industrial incentives involving major changes to the regional development grants scheme. Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a statement in the Commons.

He said that he had today published a White Paper on regional industrial development and that the department would soon publish a factual background paper on the effectiveness of regional policy and other regional issues.

He said: The Government remains firmly committed to an effective regional policy. Although the economic case for regional industrial policy changes is not clear cut, and the economic costs of such policies must be set against the benefits, there remains a social case for regional industrial policy to provide for the needs of employment opportunities.

The Government believes that there is scope to increase the effectiveness of regional policy and to achieve better value for money in the regions with less adverse effects on the economy as a whole.

The White Paper sets out a new structure for regional industrial incentives involving major changes to the regional development grants scheme.

At present regional development grants over-concentrate on capital-intensive projects and a manufacturing industry.

In future we propose that RDGs should be aimed more precisely at job creation. The new RDG scheme will be wider in scope to cover parts of the service sector in addition to manufacturing.

However, RDGs will in future be payable only towards projects which provide or maintain capacity and simple replacement investment will not qualify for RDG.

Grant will be payable as a proportion of capital expenditure, or as an amount for each new job created by a project, whichever is the more advantageous to the investor, but where grant is paid in respect of capital expenditure, it will be limited by a cost-per-job ceiling.

For the sake of simplicity, small firms will be exempt from this limit. These changes shift the payment of automatic grant assistance to projects which create jobs.

In addition, the importance of selective assistance relative to RDGs will be increased, and relocation projects which offer no net increase in jobs will not normally be eligible for regional selective assistance.

For the sake of greater importance to the automatic and predictable nature of the RDG scheme, therefore, grant will continue to be paid at standard rates and by reference to published criteria.

To avoid disruption or uncer-

tainly arising from these changes there will be a 12 month transition period from the introduction of the scheme before it takes full effect.

For projects which have already been offered selective assistance, the grant will be paid under the old rules, not the new.

The old rules, not the new, will apply for projects for which application has already been made, during the past year. Are there any proposals to extend these to regions in England where there is undoubtedly a great need where unemployment figures are at a similar level as they are in Wales and Scotland?

What part does he envisage for local government generally in play in regional development and, in particular, for local government enterprise boards?

What thought has he given to the regional pattern of public expenditure on roads, rail, water supply and the whole range of public infrastructure, which has a major impact on the prosperity of the different regions?

Mr Tebbit: He was of course, enthusiastic to imply that the best form of aid for the regional economies is a healthy economy overall and that is precisely why we intend that the new regional policy will be more effective than what we have been using up to date, but also that it will be operated at a lower cost in order to help the progress of the economy as a whole.

We hope that more will be available shortly. It would hardly have been possible to publish the whole of the material which the Government has been considering over recent months.

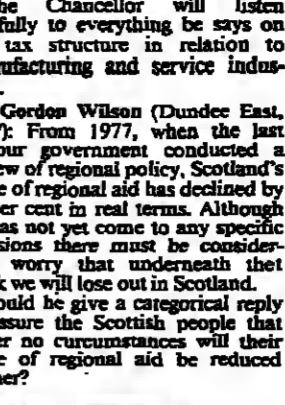
We do not intend to introduce agencies on the Scottish or Welsh model into England.

The prime part local government can play is to bring down their rate demands upon businesses and stop taxing businesses out of existence.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C): I am delighted that there is an emphasis on service industries, but they are more labour-intensive than manufacturing industry. Would he impress upon the Chancellor that whereas we give 100 per cent grants to modernise the steel industry, the same amount of fiscal aid is not given to service industries.

Mr Tebbit: It is wrong that we should discriminate in our regional economic policies against the service industries. No all service industries qualify for regional grants. These would be singularly little point, for example, in subsidising new greenhouses to come into an area where there was already an adequate supply of greenhouses.

On the other hand there would be good reason to assist through regional policy the setting up, for example, of software industry houses as a service industry to the assisted areas.



Wilson: Scotland's share of aid has declined

The Chancellor will listen carefully to everything he says on the tax structure in relation to manufacturing and service industries.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee East, SNP): From 1977, when the last Labour government conducted a review of regional policy, Scotland's share of regional aid has declined by 40 per cent in real terms. Although he has not yet come to any specific decisions these must be considerable worry that underneath that cloak we will lose out in Scotland.

Could he give a categorical reply to assure the Scottish people that under no circumstances will their share of regional aid be reduced further?

Mr Tebbit: Rural areas, like all other areas, will fall to be considered for inclusion or exclusion from the new map as it is drawn up.

Mr David Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) said he found it difficult to see how there could be an extension into new areas if the overall amount of money was to be an extension of money was to be cut down because the Government wanted to cut public spending.

Mr Tebbit said they could get better value for money.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab) said people in the northern region would be deeply suspicious about the extension. They would understand that it was a cloak of respectability for spending less money on the regions and abandoning them altogether.

Mr Barry Miller (Bromsgrove, C) said the West Midlands had the fastest rising rate of unemployment in the country, the lowest wages and output per head and the highest dependence on manufacturing.

Mr Miller said the extension of the paper would be conditioned by the fact that it reduced discrimination against the West Midlands and provided aid for modernising its industries.

Mr Tebbit said Mr Miller would be encouraged by the early signs of recovery in the West Midlands.

manufacturing industry in the service sector will be expanding. Therefore it is perverse to have a regional policy which only acts to assist manufacturing industry and does not act to assist service industries.

Mr Edward Layden (Liverpool, Lab): Small firms will not resolve the problem of mass unemployment that exists on Merseyside.

Mr Tebbit: While the local authority in Liverpool behaves in the way it does almost no regional policy is going to solve the problems of Liverpool.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L): In the last major review many rural areas with high unemployment were taken out of the system. In so doing they were removed from access to EEC grants as well. Will Mr Tebbit give an assurance that the rural areas where unemployment is high will be more sympathetically considered when the new map is drawn up?

Mr Tebbit: Rural areas, like all other areas, will fall to be considered for inclusion or exclusion from the new map as it is drawn up.

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# Why FO is keeping Falklands papers

## HOUSE OF LORDS

A suggestion that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were retaining documents about the Falklands Islands which had been borrowed from the Public Records Office, came before the House of Lords on Monday.

The exchanges began at question time when Lord Avebury (I) inquired when it was intended to return the documents and why the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had refused either to publish a list of papers abstracted or to allow access to them, notwithstanding the fact that the records were returned to the Public Records Office.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replied that matters related to the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands continued to require detailed study of the records. To publish a list as requested would involve disproportionate expense.

When records were no longer required they were returned to the Public Records Office.

Lord Avebury said that when he spoke to the records administrator office yesterday they told him that a number of documents were still being retained. They expected a decision to be made shortly on their continued retention by the Foreign Office "depending on the political situation".

He asked: What changes in our relationships with Argentina have to be accomplished before these documents are returned to their rightful place?

# Service for patients, not provider

## HEALTH SERVICE

Money saved as a result of the privatisation of NHS catering services goes to patient care, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, insisted at a question time in the Commons.

Mr Michael Mescher, Chief Opposition spokesman on health and social services, had said that the two main companies hoping to pick up the catering tail following privatisation were Trust House Forte and Town and City Properties.

They have shareholders' lists (he went on) that read like a roll-call of the Tory Party, including a former Tory Party chairman, a host of Tory MPs past and present and some present Tory Government ministers.

It is not clear that what privatisation is all about is forcing down the pay of some of the lowest paid in the NHS in order to enhance the profits of greedy Tory shareholders, many of them the Secretary of State's own colleagues?

Mr Fowler: That is thoroughly silly question. The point is that the money which comes from savings in contracting out goes to patient care. The money which the Tory shareholders have is a service provided for the patients, not for the provider.

# Taking tube and buses from GLC

## TRANSPORT

London Transport had been thrown to the mercies of the Greater London Council in 1969 and it was time to end this unwelcome 14-year interregnum, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons on Monday.

Mr Ridley said that the GLC had been given a duty to promote the provision of integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London. They now saw transport services which were not integrated, not economic and most certainly not efficient.

Costs had soared as passenger demand declined while capacity remained broadly constant. The inevitable consequence had been a huge rise in the total subsidy bill to £370m in 1982.

GLC had five vacancies on the board with its own nominees and later also appointed the chairman of the London Labour Party and the organiser of Mr Ken Livingstone's unsuccessful attempt to capture the Labour Party nomination for Brent East. He expected the next vacancy to be filled by Arthur Scargill who at least had undoubted experience in the underground.

It was wrong that the GLC should seek to turn LT into a political appendage of itself. Mr Livingstone had castigated the Government's aim to run LT as a business. The

# MEPs have no right to talk about Ulster

## PM'S QUESTIONS

The European Assembly has no business dealing with the political affairs of a member state, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal Leader, had invited her to give a general welcome to the report to the European Parliament this (Tuesday) morning by Mr Niels Hagerup, a Danish Liberal MEP, on Northern Ireland.

Mr Steel asked the Prime Minister particularly to pursue the suggestion, which the Government had been considering, of a parliamentary forum in which MPs, members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Deaf and Blind Councils of Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher: I take the view that the European Assembly has no business to consider the political affairs of a member state. That is a view we adhere to and a view to which every state of the European Community must continue to adhere.

Anglo-Irish policy is a matter for the Parliaments concerned, and not for the Community.

# Race code to be amended

## EMPLOYMENT

The Government intends to amend Section 47 of the Race Relations Act 1976 so that the Secretary of State for Employment will be able to amend the Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice on employment.

Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, indicating this in a Commons written reply, said the Government was reviewing the current code.

# Foreigners who want to pay NHS

## HEALTH SERVICE

The Government is looking at the position of foreign visitors to Britain who wish to pay for national health services, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during questions in the Commons.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgubaston, C) had complained that some foreigners who used very hard to pay for the services they received were prevented from doing so by hospital administrators.

Mr Patten replied that Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, was reviewing the position.

# Pop singer faces drug charge

## CRIME

Steve Strange, a pop singer, was granted bail yesterday after he elected to go for trial before a jury on a charge of possessing cocaine.

Mr Strange, aged 24, whose real name is Stephen John Harrington, of Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, London, appeared at Highbury Magistrates' Court.

He appeared with Eric Payne, aged 22, of east Finchley. Both were charged with having a bottle of 58m of a powder containing cocaine hydrochloride at the Camden Place Night Club in Camden High Street. Mr Payne was also given bail.

# Population trends: 3

## THE PENSIONS TIME BOMB

Projections to the year 2025 may seem like crystal-ball gazing but assumptions about the early part of the twenty-first century are vital in the planning of pensions for those who are now beginning their careers. In the final part of our series on population and public spending DAVID WALKER, Social Policy Correspondent, looks at fears of a demographic time bomb ticking away inside the state pension system.

Britain's population is likely to decline slightly between now and the end of the century, assuming there is no marked upturn in women's willingness to have children or any dramatic medical advance that prolongs life.

Within that decline there will be a fall from the mid-1980s in the number of pensioners and a rise in the population of working age who, if the planning of pensions for those of working age is to be based on the population of the elderly does get appreciably heavier.

By 2030 there will be only 2.04 members of the labour force for each pensioner. Meanwhile, contributions from the working population for state pensions are going to increase for non-demographic reasons. Gradually the earnings-related

# Ministries still resisting efficiency drive

## By Peter Hennessy

Continuing resistance in parts of Whitehall to Mrs Thatcher's efficiency drive is revealed today by Mr Ian Beesly, the under-secretary who heads the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit.

In an article published by the Royal Institute of Public Administration on the Rayner scrutinies, the investigation technique pioneered by Lord Rayner, of Marks and Spencer, the Prime Minister's first efficiency adviser, Mr Beesly writes: "Some departments have progressed far, others are scarcely past the starting line."

"If the (efficiency) initiative is to survive it must push to get recommendations delivered without losing its bite. The credibility barrier is establishing that good management is not optional."

Mr Beesly's article is the first public statement from the unit of Lord Rayner's progress since he was succeeded by Sir Robin Ibb, an executive director of ICI and former head of the Central Policy Review Staff.

The unit declined this week to name laggardly departments. But Whitehall's unofficial ratings of ministries enthused by the Rayner "rhythm" would put the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Ministry of Defence and the Inland Revenue in the upper brackets.

The lower bracket would include the Department of Education and Science, the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Law Officers' Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Beesly judges the "unswerving" personal support of the Prime Minister for Rayner scrutiny to have been crucial. He foresees the need for "high-profile leadership" from both ministers and top civil servants "for a good number of years yet."

Even a 1 per cent saving in one year on the cost of administration alone is significant in releasing resources for new policies. "It would more than pay for three new 450-bed hospitals and their running for a year."

Policy Analysis and Evaluation in British Government, edited by Andrew Gray and Bill Jenkins (RIPA, 3 Birdcage Walk, London SW1, £6.75).



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# Decisions...decisions.

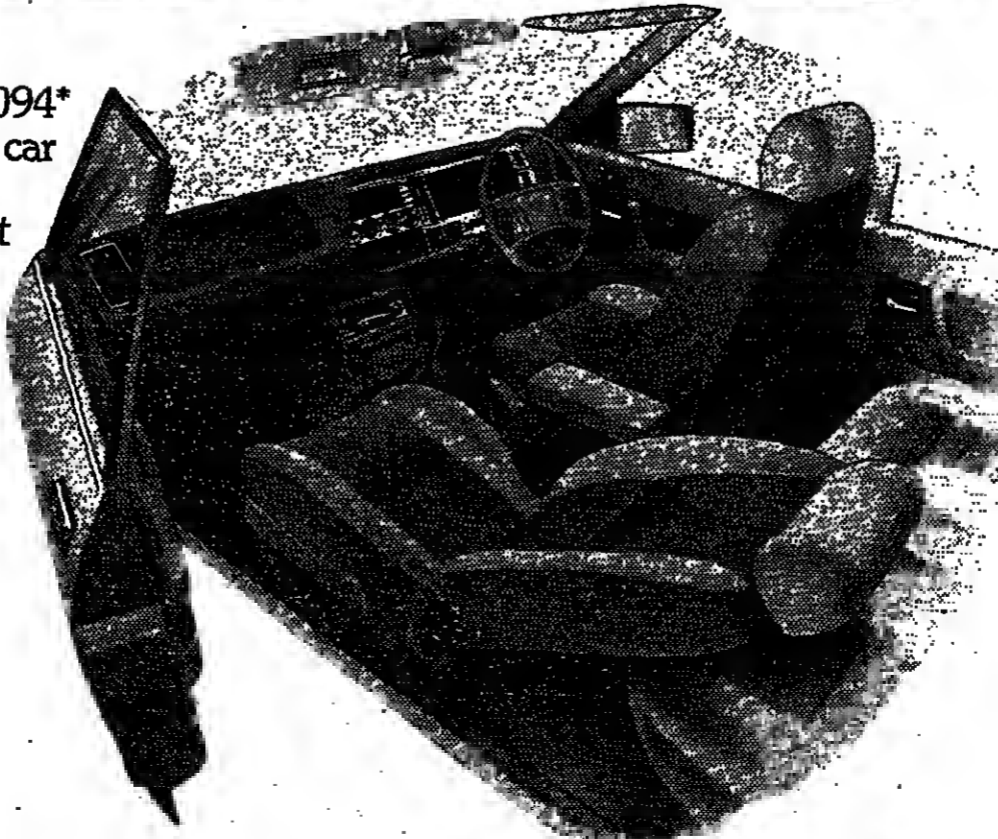
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On the one hand, you could spend just £7,094\* on the Granada L, a superbly well engineered car with 100 mph plus performance, a 5-speed gearbox, power steering and a splendidly quiet and comfortable ride.

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### Palestinians and Arab nationals barred from leaving

## Kuwait cracks down after wave of bombs

Kuwait (Reuter, AFP) - Kuwait strengthened its internal security yesterday after a series of bomb blasts which killed at least four people and injured more than 60.

Key government buildings were under heavy guard and there was increased protection around the American, French, British, and Italian embassies. The four countries providing troops for the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon. Road blocks were set up outside the capital.

The Kuwait Parliament condemned the bombings on Monday as criminal. During the 90-minute wave of attacks, the US and French embassies, a Kuwaiti government office, the airport, and a big industrial complex were all hit.

Palestinians, who form nearly a quarter of Kuwait's population, and nationals of several Middle East countries have been barred temporarily from leaving the country.

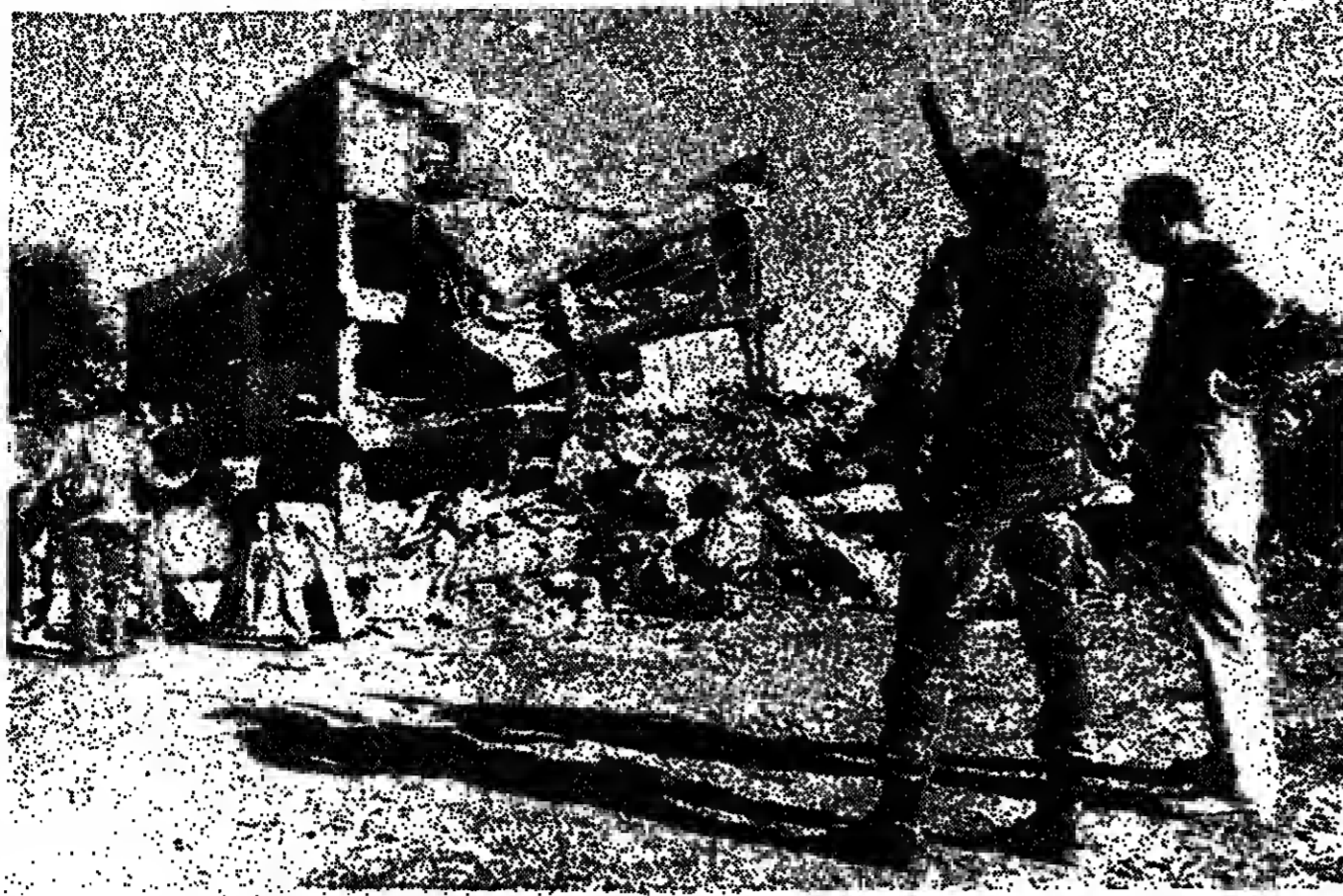
Several suspects have been arrested. Sources said police had detained an employee of a Kuwaiti public company who owned the lorry used in the attack on the US embassy as well as several of the booby-trapped cars used against other targets.

An Interior Ministry official said further arrests could be expected.

The US embassy, where three people died and more than 30 were injured, was closed for business yesterday. Marines in full combat gear and flak jackets were seen on guard inside the compound.

Mr David Good, a spokesman for the embassy, said three local employees were killed when a lorry loaded with gas cylinders and explosives smashed through the metal main gate, swerved to the left into a car park and devastated the three-storey administrative building.

Mr Good said witnesses had reported that there had been one man in the suicide lorry, a senior government official said



On alert: A Marine standing guard outside the US embassy in Kuwait after the fatal bomb blast

yesterday that the driver, whose nationality was not known, had died in the explosion though earlier reports said he had survived.

Mr Good, who was in his office when the blast occurred, said: "I was typing out a cable and heard not a very loud thump, which I surmised afterwards was the truck hitting the gate."

"This was followed about two seconds later by a tremendous sharp deafening bang and a kind of enveloping pressure which went all around my body and throughout the room. Broken glass came flying in

through my window and hit the opposite wall. Fortunately I was sitting just beneath the window which was about 5ft above my head. The glass went straight across and hit the other wall and I only had some glass and some debris and dust falling on my head."

A Muslim extremist group, Islamic Jihad, claimed responsibility for the attacks. Islamic Jihad also claimed responsibility for the recent attacks on the US Embassy and American and French military units in Beirut which killed more than 360 people. The Kuwait bombings have

shocked other Gulf states, which are already jittery over the course of the three-year war between Iran and Iraq.

● LISBON If the terrorists attacked the American and French embassies and other installations in Kuwait could be clearly identified, then steps could be taken in retaliation, Mr George Schultz, the American Secretary of State, said in Lisbon yesterday (Martha de la Cal writes).

Mr Schultz said that terrorism was a serious international problem and that steps did need to be taken, but he did not want to comment on what action

might be taken by the United States.

What happened in Kuwait was "a great tragedy", he said adding that the bomb attacks were "aimed at the United States, France the Government of Kuwait and at the general concept of law and order".

● DAMASCUS: Thousands of Syrians joined a government-sponsored rally against the United States and Israel yesterday. The authorities barred the marchers from American and Israeli embassies. Syrian security guards armed with assault rifles closed roads leading to the two embassies.

## Scottish au pair in court clash with Mauritian governess

From Peter Nichols, Livorno

Whitcraft and the paramour took a back seat at the trial here yesterday of the Scottish au pair girl Carol Compton.

Miss Compton, aged 21, has been held in prison awaiting trial since August, 1982, on charges of being responsible for five fires of which one was intended to kill a three-year-old child in her care.

Yesterday she took part in a dramatic confrontation with Miss Nicole Annaswamy, a striking woman from Mauritius who was employed in the same household as Miss Compton in July, 1982, in the northern Italian town of Ortesei.

Miss Annaswamy, elegantly dressed in red leather trousers, high heeled boots, a leather jacket and silk shawl gave an account of the first five fires. It conflicted on several points with Miss Compton's versions.

Miss Annaswamy spoke in fairly fluent Italian. Her remarks were translated for Miss Compton who dismissed them with the angry comment: "Everything, almost everything is lies."

Miss Annaswamy, according to her testimony, was returning from the centre of Ortesei on July 11, 1982, to the house and saw smoke coming from a bedroom window while Miss Compton was outside with the child.

Miss Compton has claimed that the three were together when the fire first started and that Miss Annaswamy had returned home because she wanted to see a World Cup match on television.

Miss Annaswamy denied interest in the match and added that when Signor Mario Ricci, the child's grandfather went to the door of his bedroom Miss Compton said: "Don't open". He did and found a fire which

has started on his bed.

This fire damaged the house and the Ricci family moved with Miss Compton to a flat close by. Two days later a small fire occurred in a rubbish bin in the kitchen. After another two days a more serious fire damaged another bedroom and Miss Compton was sent back to Rome. No charges were brought against her.

She found work with another family and went with them to Elba. The day after they arrived a fire broke out on a bed. Two days later another fire occurred, this time in the bedroom of the three-year-old girl who was in Carol Compton's charge. For this last fire she was accused of attempted murder. She denies all the charges.

Miss Compton yesterday could be seen reacting with some irritation as her first employer, Signora Emanuela Ricci, who had taken her to Ortesei, told the court: "I was very disappointed in this girl." (She spoke the word "disappointed" in English, presumably to get her point straight home to the accused.)

"I discovered letters which talked badly of me and my child. She was a hypocrite. I do not want to hurt the girl with my testimony."

Her evidence nevertheless went a long way towards removing the paramour from the trial. In earlier testimony she had said that her maid in Rome spoke of a vase that had inexplicably fallen to the floor in Carol's presence as well as a picture of the Madonna, but the objects could, she said yesterday, have been knocked down quite naturally.

The hearing continues today. The verdict is expected by the end of the week.

## Romanians in daring flight to West

Vienna - Twenty Romanians were seeking political asylum in Austria after a daring escape at the weekend which fooled Romanian, Hungarian and Austrian border guards (Richard Bassett writes).

The Romanians, including six children, hid themselves under boxes of ball bearings in a large container lorry and remained undetected for 48 hours in freezing temperatures until they reached Vienna late on Saturday.

A somewhat embarrassed spokesman for the Austrian police announced their presence yesterday saying that their arrival had been kept a secret while a full inquiry was launched into how they had not been discovered at the Austrian frontier.

The Romanians exhausted after their two days of concealment have now been transferred to the Traiskirchen refugee camp south of Vienna.

## Iran caps wells to save Gulf

Gland, Switzerland (AP) - Iran has capped all but six of its offshore oil wells to prevent damage from Iraqi missiles, the World Wildlife Fund said here, quoting unnamed industry sources. The wells would need redrilling to get back into production once the war ended.

Iran has capped the wells, 75 in the Nowruz field and all those in the Ardeshir near by, to avoid further oil spillage into the Gulf if missiles hit them, the fund said.

## Comoros plot

Perth (AFP) - Three Australians allegedly involved in a plot to stage a commando-style raid to overthrow the Government of Comoros - Walter John Pilgrim, 34, Edward Arthur Greengrove, 42, and Frederick John Patrick, 46, all of Armadale, Western Australia - were sent for trial by magistrates here.

## Off the air

Moscow (AFP) - Vladimir Danchev, the Soviet radio commentator dismissed in May after several times referring to the "Soviet occupation" of Afghanistan and to the mujahidin's "struggle against the Soviet invader" is back at work at Radio Moscow, according to reliable Soviet sources. But he is not broadcasting.

## Rio's loss

Rio de Janeiro (AFP) - Most of Rio's magnificent white sand beaches are so badly hit by pollution that they can no longer be used for swimming or sunbathing. Last year the Botafogo and Flamengo beaches were ruled unfit. Sewage has now drifted on to the Leblon and Ipanema.

## Cabbage Patch

San Francisco (AFP) - Mr Martin Brandon, who was adopted as a child, filed a \$100m action against the manufacturers of "cabbage patch" dolls, claiming they have an extremely negative effect on adopted children who wonder if they too were born in cabbage patches.

## Birthday killer

Bonn - The Hamburg public prosecutor has charged a 47-year-old Arnold Strippel, a former SS lieutenant, with hanging 40 Jews on Hitler's birthday 38 years ago. Twenty were children.

## On your bike

Peking (Reuter) - Wang Qingshun, 27-year-old Peking economics graduate assigned to work in Tibet, cycled there, all 6,200 miles of it, the New China news agency reported. It took him 82 days.

## Inside story

Jakarta (Reuter) - Fishermen at Lahuan Lombok in eastern Indonesia, slicing up a 9ft shark they had netted, discovered a human skeleton inside.

## Argentina imposes price freeze

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina's new civilian Government has begun implementing a package of emergency measures aimed at pulling the country out of its worst economic crisis. The tough measures include an immediate price freeze on staple food stuffs.

Señor Ricardo Campero, the Trade Secretary, placed a 60 per cent limit on mark-ups by wholesalers and retailers. The price controls are an extreme measure designed to curb the rate of inflation that, of 400 per cent, has threatened to get out of hand in recent months. The Government said the restrictions would last only 40 days.

President Raúl Alfonsín, who took office last Saturday after nearly eight years of military rule, has promised to bring the country's inflation rate down to double-digit figures during his first year of office. Predictions by economists say the year's inflation rate will be well over 400 per cent.

The severity of the new economic measures took the Argentine business community by surprise.

President Alfonsín was due to meet his top advisers to discuss, among other things, further economic measures to be sent to the newly-elected Congress, expected to begin an extraordinary session today or tomorrow.

Before calling Congress into session, however, the President is expected to decree an emergency wage increase for state and private sector workers, a step demanded by the powerful Peronist trade unions.

The first package of emergency measures Señor Alfonsín will submit to Congress will include a thorough reform of the country's financial system, a food assistance programme for poor families, a minimum wage law, and a reform of the laws governing trade union organization.

President Alfonsín also met yesterday former President Isabel Perón.



Mme Rozès: Eminent, frank-speaking lawyer

## Woman gets top French judicial job

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Mme Simone Rozès, who is 63, has been appointed president of the Appeal Court, the highest judicial office in France. The first woman to hold the post, she replaces M Robert Schmelck who retires at the end of the year.

Called to the Bar in Paris in 1947, Mme Rozès was an eminent, frank-speaking lawyer. She became in 1973 the first woman to hold the post of departmental director in the Ministry of Justice, when she was appointed head of the prison education section.

Three years later, she became the first woman president of the Paris Court of Justice, but was moved again in March 1981, just before the Socialists came to power, to become Attorney General at the European Court in Luxembourg.

Many saw that appointment, although it carries great prestige, as a form of punishment for her outspoken criticism of the Government's controversial Security and Liberty Law, since repealed by the Socialists. She said at the time: "My departure will not displease certain people."

She proved herself no less outspoken, however, when she resigned in July 1981 from a commission of inquiry set up by M Gaston Defferre, the Socialist Minister of the Interior.

## Recriminations over failed Athens summit

## Britain condemned for mean-mindedness

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

Britain was slated for mean-mindedness and lack of vision yesterday when the European Parliament reviewed the failure of the Athens summit to reach any decisions on essential reforms for the EEC.

While 3,000 farmers outside the building demonstrated angrily about failures of the common agricultural policy, Mr Andreas Pappadonou, the Green Prime Minister, who presided at the summit and Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, gave their views to Euro-MPs about why there had been failure.

While neither actually named Britain, it was perfectly obvious from their references that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's hard line at the summit was seen as a main reason for the failure.

Mr Thorn promised that he meant to stop the "flagrant violation" of Community rules, which had led the Council of

## Jopling detects change of mood on farm prices

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

There is no money available for any general increase in EEC farm prices next year, Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, told ministers in Brussels yesterday. They were preparing for the annual farm price fixing, aware that Commission proposals could be put before Christmas.

He said that failure at the Athens summit to agree on a savings of £500m and a new tax on milk and fats worth £300m, meant that the Community faced a shortfall of about £1,000m next year.

He warned that the Commission had virtually no means of making real savings. It could legally continue its present freeze on some advanced, it could suspend a number of export restitutions and premiums, and it could stop buying some produce. But the effect of these measures, he said, could even give rise to

higher costs as they would add to existing surpluses. Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, said afterwards that nobody wanted to rush into decisions on new measures yet. But he detected a change in the mood of the farm ministers, who have a reputation for always wanting to spend more. "I detect a growing awareness that the Community is in a crunch situation, and a growing realization that there are no short cuts or easy ways in buy ourselves out of it. There is a concentration of minds."

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## Safety of Britons will be pressed on Gemayel

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will be putting President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon under pressure to provide evidence of progress towards political reconciliation in his divided country when they meet in Downing Street today.

The Government is mindful of growing concern about the safety of the 100 or so troops who make up Britain's contribution to the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut.

The call for an imminent withdrawal of the contingent is far from irresistible and observers believe that the force, now consisting of troops from the 16/5th Lancers, is less likely than its French and American counterparts to be targeted by Islamic terrorists.

But the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who will hold talks with the Lebanese President, want to make it clear that the British contingent is not meant to remain for ever.

President Gemayel who will also see the Queen during his

48-hour stay, arrived last night amid tight security.

He comes at the Government's invitation at a crucial point in the history of his country - whose warring factions mandated his after last month's reconciliation talks in Geneva - to tour Western capitals in an attempt to secure the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

But he has also said that he wants to buy British aircraft to supplement the eight elderly Hunters still flying with the Lebanese Air Force.

The multinational force is needed to prop up the authority of the Beirut Government until its own emergent forces are strong enough to enforce law and order.

But growing scepticism on the Labour benches over the role and usefulness of the force - and the dangers to which it is exposed - lies behind meetings which President Gemayel will also have with Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Mr Denis Healey, shadow Foreign Secretary.

## Light across the Jordan river

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Amid the current mood of pessimism gripping the Middle East, there have been a number so small but significant pointers recently towards a possible avenue for future Israeli-Arab dialogue.

The latest is a strong indication that the Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir may agree to permit an moderate West Bank Palestinian appointed next year to the Jordanian National Assembly to cross the Allenby bridge to take their seats in Amman.

Although no Cabinet decision has yet been taken, senior advisers to Mr Shamir are sympathetic to the idea of permitting pro-Jordanian West Bankers to attend the Parliament if and when the summons was issued from Amman.

Copies of pro-Jordanian petitions are also being circulated in moderate Arab circles in the main cities. At a later stage they will be circulated among the general public for signature after they have received the formal approval of the Jordanian authorities.

Other pointers have been the unprecedented statements of

Palestinians. "It also makes a mockery out of the EEC's Venice Declaration", he added.

When recalled, the Parliament can nominate new West Bank delegates to replace those who died since it last sat before the 1967 war. There is speculation that such a delegation could form the nucleus of a future Palestinian team which would then be in a position to join talks with Israel alongside King Hussein.

Already the King's announcement has caused a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity in the West Bank, including consultations among pro-Jordanian elements as to whom would be endorsed for the Parliament if and when the summons was issued from Amman.

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Other pointers have been the unprecedented statements of

condemnation of last week's PLO bus bomb in Jerusalem issued by five radical Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and separately, by prominent Arabs from the occupied Gaza Strip.

The West Bank statement was signed, among others, by two deposed mayors previously closely associated with the PLO, Mr Karim Khalaf of Ramallah and Mr Mustapha Nathe of Hebron. "Violence against civilians, carried out by either side, is counterproductive to a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem", it concluded.

The statement was hailed by Mr Shamir as "a positive trend" and by the opposition Labour Party as a sign of a possible new readiness on behalf of the West Bank Arabs for coexistence with Israel. Less radical leaders such as Mr Eliaz Freij, the elected mayor of Bethlehem, have been pressing this point.

Less well publicized was a similar condemnation by Gaza leaders including the Mayor of Khan Younis, one of the largest towns under occupation there and leaders of several Palestinian refugee camps.

## Democracy plea to Chile by 15-nation rally

Santiago (Reuter) - Christian Democratic leaders from 15 countries sponsored a rally here and called on Chile's military rulers to move towards democracy.

Señor Andrés Zaldívar, the Chilean politician who recently returned from exile and who is president of the Christian Democratic International, told the meeting of 5,000 people sponsored by CDD that military governments in Latin America had been uniformly disastrous.

"At this moment, Argentina is emerging into democracy and we salute it with joy. Tomorrow, it will be Uruguay and Brazil and why not Chile?" Señor Zaldívar said.



Marital vote: Herr Brandt and Fraulein Seebacher, who married last Friday photographed voting together at the West German general election last June

## Brandt remarries in secret

From Our Correspondent, Bonn The after-hours ceremony was performed by the conservative Christian Democrat mayor, Herr Hans Hafener, who agreed to the unusual timing at Herr Brandt's express request "to preserve secrecy at least over the weekend". It was the former Chancellor's third marriage.

The newlyweds have lived together in Unkel since early 1979 when Herr Brandt and his second Norwegian wife, Rnt, separated after 31 years of marriage.

While 3,000 farmers outside the building demonstrated angrily about failures of the common agricultural policy, Mr Andreas Pappadonou, the Green Prime Minister, who presided at the summit and Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, gave their views to Euro-MPs about why there had been failure.

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## Solidarity priest held on martial law anniversary

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities yesterday celebrated the second anniversary of the introduction of martial law by detaining Father Jerzy Popieluszko, one of the Catholic Church's most outspoken critics of the Jaruzelski Government and its human rights record.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, told reporters that Father Popieluszko - whose sermons regularly attract thousands of Solidarity sympathizers - was taken into custody on Monday under

suspicion of abusing his priestly status.

Security police later searched the priest's apartment and found a "large number of illegal objects that a priest should not have in his possession," he said. The police therefore made use of their right to hold him without charge for 48 hours before deciding whether to arrest him formally.

Officials refused to say whether the "illegal objects" were underground documents. Cardinal Josef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, has been informed of the detention which is sure to become a cause

celebre for the Solidarity underground.

Both the Government and the church leadership have repeatedly denied that there are serious strains in their relationship. However, church advisers admit privately that the level of church-state cooperation has reached a plateau that negotiations on a church fund to help private farmers were moving forward too slowly and that the Government is not averse to striking tough poses towards radical priests, like Father Popieluszko.

Neighbouring communist countries, such as Czechoslova-

kia, and hardline Marxists within the country have been sharply critical that Poland to act as a springboard for opposition and anti-communist activities.

At the change of the afternoon factory shifts yesterday, it appeared that the most workers had decided to mark the anniversary of martial law quietly.

Riot police units were deployed around some of the key industrial troublespots, such as the Ursus tractor factory outside Warsaw, but the main alert was expected after nightfall

مكتبة من الأصل

# Managua rejects talks with rebels but makes peace offering

Managua (NYT) - Señor Humberto Ortega Suvendra, the Defense Minister, says Sandinista forces defeated a guerrilla campaign last month aimed at seizing a part of Nicaraguan territory and setting up a provisional government there.

In an interview here, Señor Ortega rejected recent suggestions that his Government negotiate with leaders of the guerrilla force, but he said the Sandinistas were seeking the "reconciliation of the great Nicaraguan family" through talks with the domestic opposition.

He also said Nicaragua wanted to reach an understanding for coexistence with Washington.

The United States should accept us as we are and not try to impose conditions," Señor Ortega said. "In this relationship, we will respect the reality represented by the United States."

Señor Ortega, aged 36, is a senior member of the nine-man Sandinista national directorate that holds power in Nicaragua. He portrayed rebel bands as scattered and broken up but predicted they would start a new wave of attacks after they have time to regroup in Costa Rica and especially in Honduras.

He said the appearance of a rebel air force had introduced a new element into the hostilities. Its use had been curtailed recently. Four of the ancient rebel planes had been shot down and use of the planes was embarrassing to the US "because it made the involvement of the CIA so obvious".

Guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas have received millions in covert aid from the US. According to Señor Ortega, anti-government rebels based in Honduras, including groups of disaffected Miskito Indians, planned to seize an area near the Atlantic coast town of Puerto Cabezas last month in coordination with other rebel detachments based near the Costa Rican border.

"They were unable to achieve their goal because of our defensive strength, in this case the strength of the territorial militias, which held off the aggressors in many encounters in that part of the country," Señor Ortega said.

# Goethe image under attack

From Michael Binyon Bonn

When the Colombo branch of the Goethe Institute, West Germany's equivalent of the British Council, planned a showing of a homosexual film recently, the German Ambassador stepped in and vetoed the performance.

Wolfgang Petersen's television film of a love affair between two men was one of nine films sent out by the institute's Munich headquarters for use in promoting German culture to Goethe Institutes in South-East Asia, but the Sri Lanka censor forbade its public showing.

In normal circumstances the ambassador's veto would have raised few questions: according to the 1976 agreement between the Goethe Institute and the Foreign Ministry, Bonn's diplomats have the final say on anything with political implications. The showing of a censored film might fall into that category.

But at the moment the institute's defenders are on their guard against any further encroachments on their hard-won independence. For in recent months conservative politicians, especially in Bavaria, have mounted a concerted attack on the respected quasi-independent cultural organisation, accusing it of portraying an unflattering image of West Germany and not responding to the changed political climate.

The dispute came to a head last month during Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Japan. While opening one of the institute's new branches in Kyoto, he enunciated in a speech the liberal principles on which it would operate. It was to represent the federal republic as it really was: a free democracy based on the free exchange of ideas and opinions.

The Kyoto branch would represent both Germany's past and present, the views of the opposition as well as of the Government.

These promises were short-lived, however. A journalist showed the Chancellor a folder produced by the new institute which included among 46 video cassettes on aspects of Germany, four on the subjects of platinum, the Nuremberg trials, the Green MP General Gert Bastian, and the controversial new runway at Frankfurt.

Dr Kohl was incensed and let journalists accompanying him know of his anger. Accusations began appearing in the organs of the right-wing Christian Social Union that the Goethe Institute was engaged in "international cultural subversive activity". The conservative *Die Welt* made charges of "atrocious one-sidedness".

Proposals have been put forward for a cut in the institute's budget of DM150,000 (about £38,000) and for stricter accountability so that in future all funds made available for musical activity should be spent only on music.

The Foreign Ministry, to which the Goethe Institute is ultimately responsible, rejected the accusations of bias as lacking any basis. A statement last month said the institute's work was, as previously, independent of political parties and did not need alteration.

The ministry admitted that twice there had been lapses: once when Herr Jo Leinen, a leader of the anti-nuclear peace movement, criticised nuclear power plants in Brazil, and once when Herr Günter Grass, the author, had represented the viewpoint of opponents of development.

# THE ARTS

Almost a generation after its birth, Ron Moody (right) tonight at the Aldwych returns to *Oliver!*, the musical that made his name: interview by Sheridan Morley

# Archetype of the genuine English musical classic

"I'm a lonely man; I never married, have no children. This seemed a great way to spend Christmas." Thus Ron Moody, explaining why after 23 years he is at last back to picking a pocket or two and reconsidering the situation in the musical that made his name - *Oliver!* - which previews at the Aldwych from tonight at the start of a five-week Christmas season. Not that this was set up as a conscious exercise in showbiz nostalgia. What happened was that the impresario Cameron Mackintosh, who also has *AbbeCdabba* and *Blondie and Cats and Song & Dance and Little Shop of Horrors* around London this Christmas and who started out a couple of decades ago as a stagehand on *Oliver!*, happened to have a tour of it going around the country with Roy Hudd and Jimmy Edwards. Most of that cast reckoned they would be through by Christmas, and accordingly booked themselves in pantomimes elsewhere: the *Aldwych* then fell vacant. *Oliver!* seemed about due for yet another Christmas return to London, and Mackintosh was short of a Fagin. What more natural than to go back to the first?

"He made me an offer that my agent said I couldn't refuse," says Moody now. "I'd refused a lot in the past. Originally they offered me a million dollars to do it in America, but in those days I was keen to work on other London musicals so I turned them down. They say Harrison and Channing seem never to have left *The King and I* or *Hello Dolly*, but somehow with me it never worked like that. I got very bored after that first year in London and I always wonder I'd only ever do it again on ice. But then the film came along. Nobody ever thought of me first as Fagin; for the stage show they wanted a star like Sid James or Max Bygraves and for the film they wanted either Harrison or Peter Sellers, but eventually it came down to me both times and now I am back to it at the age of 59, which is probably about the age I should have been originally for Fagin.

"At first even I never wanted to do it. They told me there was this musical of *Oliver Twist* so I went to see the Alec Guinness film which I found so anti-Semitic as to be unbearable. But Barr is as Jewish as I am and we both felt an obligation to get Fagin away from a vicious racial stereotype and instead make him what he really is - a crazy old Father Christmas gone wrong. The curious thing about the show is that it can never really fail: I went to see the touring version and at first I was appalled by how broad it had got and how far away from our original, but then the kids come on and that marvellous Sean Kenny set comes to life and the tears are in the eyes. What we've got here is perhaps the only genuine English musical classic and what we must do now is to get it back towards Dickens after the years in which it's been allowed to slide downhill into a kind of pantomime. Then maybe at last I'll do it on Broadway. I think I'm about ready now."

The son of a master plasterer at Elstree Studios, Moody started out there as a wages clerk when he was 16. "I used to carry a bit of paper around to make me look official and with that I got on to all the sets in the days when there was still a lot of filming going on down there - all the old Alistair Sim, Will Fyfe, George Formby comedies. Films still fascinate me more than anything else: concentration, pacing, it's all there."

But, after four years in the RAF, Moody decided that what he really wanted to be was a writer: "I was an instructor in



current affairs, got fascinated by Shaw's theories of socialism and decided the first thing I had to get was a proper education. So from the RAF I went to study sociology at the London School of Economics, and that was where it all started. Not the sociology, you understand, the showbusiness. Fenella Fielding happened in by doing a friend's favour by appearing in a student revue there, and some writers came to have a look.

"Peter Myers and Ronnie Cass: they saw me and suggested I might like to work in some of the sketches they were then writing for little theatre clubs like the Irving and the New Lindsey, and so by day I did sociology and by night I did the jokes. Then I gave up the sociology and spent about five years on Shaftesbury Avenue in revues like *For Amusement Only* and *For Adults Only*. Then an American director saw me and thought he might like to have me in *Cambridge* in rehearsal he couldn't believe that I had no training of any kind, had never been to drama class, voice class, movement class, nothing. Just the LSE and then revues. So he began giving seminars in drama which lasted all through rehearsals and were fascinating: unfortunately the show wasn't, and we closed in a fortnight. It was supposed to have been a critical success but even the critics hated it. Still, Peter Coe, who's always been my great supporter, saw it and asked me to audition for Fagin. Lionel walked out of the audition because he said he wanted a star, but Coe persuaded him I could do it and the rest you know. Once I got over the anti-Semitism I knew there was something remarkable there: like *Ripoutin* and *Svengali*, Fagin is a mesmerist figure."

But Moody left the original run after the first year, largely to set up his own musical about Grimaldi which in the event took him five years and lost

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# Mining deal threatens Amazonians

Brasilia (AFP) - About 25,000 Amazonian Indians are threatened by a government decision which allows private companies to enter Indian territories to prospect for gold, diamonds and other minerals.

The presidential decree is being challenged by Senator Mario Juruna, Brazil's only Indian deputy, as unconstitutional. He described it as one more initiative to do away with the Indians.

A government spokesman recently deflected the decision. "The non-exploitation of natural resources, which are vital to national security and to the development process, cannot be justified by the single fact that these resources are located in indigenous lands."

The Government says it is acting in the best interests of the Indians, pledging to mechanize mining as much as possible to reduce the intrusion of outsiders and to supervise the private companies.

# Uruguay paper silenced

Montevideo (Reuter) - Uruguay's military Government has shut down one of the country's leading newspapers for three days for publishing an interview with an exiled politician.

*El Dia* is the second publication to be silenced in less than a week for publishing stories on Senator Wilson Ferreira, an exiled leader of the opposition Blanco Party.

President Gregorio Alvarez said in a statement that the *El Dia* interview with Señor Ferreira, published on Sunday, violated a law barring news reports on people deprived of political rights.

The military government closed down *Somos Idea* magazine, the journal of the Blanco Party, for 12 weeks for carrying a cover picture of Señor Ferreira. Since 1981 the Government has closed 18 news publications, four of them permanently.

# Concerts Discovering delight

Sinfonietta/Atherton Queen Elizabeth Hall

Three months ago the Royal Opera House gave us the coloured frontpiece in their magical production of *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*; now the pages of the Ravel/Varese Festival have begun to turn in earnest, but with quite the same liveliness and delight. The festival is continuing over the next eight weeks, and clearly, if Monday night's opening concert is anything to go by, no musical winter is going to be complete unless brightened by at least one visit.

I suppose one's expectation was that these concerts would have their most remarkable discoveries in the music of Varese, born a hundred years ago into a world wholly unprepared for music of such violent beauty; it is so still, which is why Varese continues to shock on the rare occasions when his music is heard. This first concert, however, suggested we are going to be learning just as much about Ravel, if not more.

Partly this was a matter of programming. Varese was represented by his two weakest scores - by, indeed, the only two weak scores in his output. In *Offrandes* he was still finding his feet, or rather cutting loose from his Debussian past, while in *Le Tombeau de Couperin* he had an unfortunate taste for bathos; an unfortunate taste of surrealistic incantation. *Nocturnal* comes from the other end of his career, when he had abandoned hope

# Television Sensational kind of humanity

When Thomas Kenally wrote a novel about the subject of last night's Schindler (Thames) there was some controversy over its status as either fact or fiction. The same question necessarily arises with television documentaries (especially, one might add, when they are narrated by Dirk Bogarde, who would make the Scriptures sound faintly suspect); although this one was described as a "true story", its mixture of archive material and contemporary reminiscence suggested the presence of art as well as reality.

The lineaments of Oskar Schindler's history, at least, are sufficiently well known. He was a minor German industrialist who, during the war years, in Poland, rescued and protected the Jews in his employment; he bribed his friends in the SS to secure the release of certain Jews, and created his own "concentration camp" to secure them from the attentions of his compatriots.

The human facts of the matter are still harrowing and some of the pictures from the concentration camps were difficult to watch, but as a result Schindler's actions seem all the more extraordinary. The horror and inhumanity provoked in most a feeling of powerlessness, and yet for Schindler it became an opportunity for action. It is difficult to know where such strength comes from - he was a vain man, a philanthropist who liked to be the centre of attention, but it is often in such people rather than in those of a more caustic disposition that true heroism springs.

Last night's documentary might be described as an "adventure story" if the conditions of the time did not render such an expression ludicrously inappropriate. The testimony of the Jewish survivors was terrible in its factuality and its restraint, which is why their obvious respect and affection for Oskar Schindler was all the more powerful. This was an extraordinary programme, which took a sensational story and lent it a human face.

Peter Ackroyd

# Theatre Mother Goose

Palace, Watford

Before the Christmas deluge gets under way, spare a thought for this modest entertainment, a thoroughly workmanlike job in every department, from its cartwheeling dances to its well-sustained audience routines, adding up exactly to the promised traditional family pantomime.

If that description raises a yawn, you have reckoned without Peter John, veteran panto author and dame, whose idea of a traditional show by no means excludes what lies outside the Palace Theatre.

As a panto theme, *Mother Goose* is almost as free as *Old King Cole*, and Mr John has invented most of his story from scratch. He may bring on a demon king and a good fairy, turn out cross-talk for the squire and the village idiot, and go to town on an underwater ballet and a transformation scene. But his villain (David Gant) is a demon of discontent who tries to seduce the dame into buying furniture on the never-never, and who persuades the squire to drive a motorway from the idyllic cardboard landscape straight through Mother Goose's cottage.

When the search party arrive (by yellow submarine) to rescue the kidnapped Golden Goose, Mr Gant is waiting for them with a computer programmed to indoctrinate them with advertising jingles. It is a warning that would strike home anywhere, but particularly among the ring roads and shopping precincts of what is left of Watford.

Mr John plays a robust dame, well able to coax strong men from the house to flap a basket full of brickbats in a laundry chorus. Stephen Bent makes firm friends with the audience as his idiot son, and Cheryl Pay offers an amazingly long-legged principal boy. Bob Carlton's production is handsomely dressed.



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# Dress rehearsal for next year's election The great American divide

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Two of the most influential US politicians, sons of immigrants who followed different political tracks, have provided Americans with a clear picture of the choices which face them in next year's presidential election campaign.

In a debate in Washington last week, Mr Mario Cuomo of New York and Mr George Deukmejian of California, the two most populous and powerful states, showed clearly that, despite their similar backgrounds, they represent the growing split between the left and right in American politics.

Both are native New Yorkers, classmates at law school in the 1950s. Both confounded pollsters during gubernatorial races last year by pulling off upset victories and both are being mentioned as likely candidates in the 1988 presidential election.

But there the comparison ends. Mr Cuomo, born of Italian parents, is an advocate of the "new deal" school of liberalism that has been at the heart of the Democratic Party for the past 50 years. "Mario Cuomo can make liberalism again," said Mr Ben Wattenberg, co-editor of *Public Opinion* magazine, who chaired last week's debate.

Mr Deukmejian, who is of Armenian stock, is a classic example of the new Republican conservatives who have risen to



Right and left: Mr Deukmejian (left) and Mr Cuomo (right)

prepare to select their candidate to fight an expected second-term attempt by President Reagan.

"There is a tremendous problem facing the Democratic Party and that is how to run against a popular president in the middle of a robust economic recovery and during a period of renewed national pride."

Even Mr Cuomo had to admit that in Mr Reagan, the Republicans have an asset which the Democrats could not match. "You're not going to beat Reagan on charisma," conceded Mr Cuomo, who has endorsed Mr Walter Mondale as the Democratic presidential candidate.

But the core of Mr Cuomo's attack - which is likely to be a central theme of the Democratic campaign next year - was the unfairness of the President's programme. What ever progress had been achieved during the past three years had been enjoyed by the rich and had been at the expense of the poor.

After the debate, it was generally agreed among the largely conservative audience that Mr Cuomo had won on points, mainly because of his charisma and his flair as a speaker. These are qualities which will ensure him a key role in next year's campaign and why an increasing number of Democrats are looking to him to become the bearer of their standard in 1988.

# RPO/Weller Festival Hall

There is no reason why short, dark days should necessarily produce long, pale concerts, but it does happen, and Monday night at the Festival Hall was a case in point.

The popular programme of Mozart and Dvorak had drawn a sizeable audience of all ages, and children and grandparents alike in their Sunday best were rewarded by playing that lacked, alas, any comparable sense of occasion.

Mozart's *Nachtmusik* had never seemed less *kleine*, what set out to be a pleasingly no-nonsense period of serenading ended up weary from the shallow breathing of its phrasing and the lacklustre tempi and dynamic shaping.

Next came Tamas Vasary with Mozart's K436 Piano Concerto in B flat. Walter Weller, the Royal Philharmonic's principal conductor, can pull out plenty of *fortes* when he wants to, particularly for example in the orchestral responses to the piano's delicate filigree variations in the slow movement. But finesse and nuancing of phrasing are not among them: the energy of the

# Paul Griffiths

outer movements was tapped by musical lines whose beginnings and endings were left very much to their own devices.

The rather skittish rhythmic life that resulted seemed to set Mr Vasary on edge too, for he ran away with his opening, smudged ornaments and scale-passages, and left the centre of the work as anonymous in reticence as the orchestra had been in assertion.

Dvorak ended the evening, and his Eighth Symphony at least gave the orchestra a blood transfusion. The trumpets and horns had the time of their lives; the Scherzo, deaf to any sense of cross-metre, seemed nearer Vienna than Bohemia; and the finale had all the colour and vitality of a rather clumsily keyed fairground Gavioli.

# Hilary Finch

Salvatore Accardo tonight performs what is thought to be an unique combination of roles within a single evening, in a Mozart concert at the Festival Hall. He not only directs the Chamber Orchestra of Europe but is also violin soloist in the "Haffner" Serenade and makes his London debut as viola soloist in the Sinfonia Concertante.

André Previn takes over as music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1985. But he is a compulsive musician, and already he is at work with the RPO on a nine-hour series for television - the medium that brings to life his versatility

# Four ages of a musician for all seasons

By Norman Lebrecht

It is entirely characteristic of André Previn that he should have started work as music director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra almost two years ahead of his official installation in June 1985. Whatever else may have changed (and much has) in the four years since he ceased to be a fixture in London's musical firmament, Previn's enthusiasm and appetite for work remain insatiable.

For four months of each year he is committed to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, whose music director he has been since 1976. The rest of the time he flits about guest-conducting the world's major orchestras in Berlin, Vienna, Amsterdam, London, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. In addition he goes on chamber music tours with the principals of the Vienna Philharmonic, records two LPs every three months (he has contracts to fulfil with both EMI and Philips), composes and writes (his *Guide to Music* is published this month by Macmillan). He also makes television programmes and commercials. "I don't know how not to work so hard," he says flatly. "I'm crazy about my profession. When somebody offers me two weeks in Amsterdam or Boston, before I know what I've said, I've said 'yes'."

When his new wife, Heather, suggested a holiday in Bermuda, Previn's instinct was to respond: "Why Bermuda? There is no orchestra in the Caribbean."

Of late Previn has been guiding his new orchestra through a nine-hour television examination of the symphony, a series scheduled for 1984. While members of the RPO filter into the studio, Previn sits tautly in a latrine-like BBC dressing room, as tense as if this were his TV debut. He can scarcely bring himself to eat or drink before the arduous filming session.

In conversation he is dull, evasive, and distracted, becoming animated only when discussing intricacies of make-up and costume for the show. Yet the flickering of a camera signal will transform this terse, morose conductor, brusque to the point of incivility, into the familiar living-room fount of bonhomie, wit and musical

wisdom. Associates speak wonderingly of his ability to switch moods instantaneously.

On television, his versatility is unique among musicians, surpassing the raw passion of Bernstein's pioneering programmes with a sophisticated array of devices calculated to lure the least musical of viewers. Previn is at home on television, more so perhaps than anywhere else.

He is German by birth, American by citizenship, part-British by domicile. He claims England as his home, established during 11 years with the London Symphony Orchestra and reinforced by his new three-year arrangement with the RPO. He has kept the house in Surrey following his divorce from Mia Farrow and returns there regularly from his global peregrinations. "He also had the common sense," says Heather Previn dryly, "to take an English wife and an English secretary." The arrival of an English child is expected shortly.

The Previn who has set out to recapture a dominant position in musical London is no longer the glib, flip pixie who galvanized it in the early 1970s. Previn is on the threshold of his fourth period.

The first, now almost a childish irrelevance, was the Hollywood era as jazz pianist, film composer and Oscar accumulator. The second saw his rise to musical respectability via Houston and the LSO.

In the third, his Pittsburgh leadership and Public Broadcasting Service programmes won him acceptance in the US. The fourth period, his re-entry into a now-troubled London music arena, could well determine the conclusive verdict of history on this meteoric performer. He is not unaware of the significance of that verdict.

At 54, Previn is beginning to show signs of age. There is a hunching in his shoulders, a thinning in his cheeks. He has been stricken by an arthritic complaint in one foot and let it be known he would call off the BBC television series rather than submit to the indignity of having to conduct from a stool. He has cancelled a



André Previn: 'I don't know how not to work so hard' (Photograph by Dmitri Kasterine)

number of concerts in December to have surgery on the offending foot and will be chair-bound for a month. "But the doctors say I'll be back playing tennis afterwards," he says cheerfully. Nonetheless the whizzkid has, inevitably, begun to slow down.

The third period, however, has also brought greater maturity as a conductor. His musical relationship with the Pittsburgh added administrative experience to his musical authority. As Music Director (at the LSO he was merely Principal Conductor), he is responsible for everything from hiring and firing players to programming the children's concerts. He will undertake similar responsibilities at the RPO and, he believes, it is no coincidence that the LSO has swiftly upgraded Claudio Abbado's status to Music Director.

"When I came to work here in 1968," he reflects, "it was absolutely undeniable that London was the

greatest musical centre in the world. That position is much shakier now - for reasons of inflation, recession, the decline of audiences and the record industry. It used to be taken for granted that a good programme, or soloist, or conductor, would fill the Festival Hall. That is no longer the case."

Previn promises to spend a lot of time in the next year researching new programming possibilities for the RPO. He is unwilling so far to reveal any of his ideas, but maintains that the other London orchestras have reacted to the slump by becoming "wildly conservative". That is not a course he is likely to follow.

In Pittsburgh he has enjoyed considerable freedom with programming and is keen to emphasise his promotion of new music. "In any of the big cities of America, orchestral subscriptions are sold for the whole season and music directors can afford

to be adventurous. If I want to put on an evening of, say, Messiaen and Elliott Carter, there may be a lot of empty seats - but they have all been paid for."

He has also persisted with the advancement of British music that he began in London. It was Previn, more than any other, who restored Vaughan Williams and Walton to general circulation - and has given the US premiere of Tippett's Triple Concerto, as well as works by John McCabe, Oliver Knussen and Nicholas Maw. He has also, while on tour, given innumerable local premières of more familiar works.

One of the highlights of his career was to take Britten and Walton to Russia in 1970. "They were about as friendly as Britten and Walton were going to be," he laughs, "but I was just pleased to be in the same room. Sir William was thrilled with the screaming ovation - about twenty minutes of it - that his First Symphony got in Moscow." Previn treasures a photograph of himself and Walton in full concert dress clutching cans of beer as Russian officialdom toasted them in vodka.

On the Soviet tour Previn established his own reputation as an outstanding interpreter of Russian music. In the meantime, however, since collaborating with Tom Stoppard on *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, a musical set in a Soviet psychiatric hospital, he is no longer welcome in the Soviet Union. An attempt last year to return with an American television network to cover the International Tchaikovsky Competition was discreetly but efficiently blocked. "It was just after the Barbican revival of *EGGBDF* opened in Vienna, he found himself unable to enter East Germany to record the Brahms Requiem in Dresden. "I had a very kind letter from the orchestra, saying how sorry they were."

His forthcoming compositions are less controversial. There is a long-promised piano concerto for Vladimir Ashkenazy which he expects to complete by next summer, and an orchestral piece commissioned by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra for the 1985 Salzburg Festival.

Despite the pedigree of his clients, Previn makes no undue claims for himself as composer or conductor. He is acutely aware of his own limitations and of market realities, refusing for example to consider the possibility of recording a Beethoven cycle, the conductor's ultimate accolade. "If someone goes into a record shop and asks for the *Eroica*, and he is then given a list of everyone since Nikisch who recorded it, why wouldn't he pick some gigantic interpretation? No, I never think of records as a vanity. I'd like them to have some validity and I'd like them to sell enough so that the company isn't sorry they were made."

In fact his sales record is such that he has made more recordings than any but three or four other conductors in the history of the gramophone.

It would appear that the Beethoven cycle is one of numerous unfulfilled ambitions that Previn hints at but will not disclose. He insists, however, that he does not hanker after any other musical positions: Pittsburgh and the RPO will suffice until the late 1980s. For a man who overextends himself so consistently, Previn has reduced his failure rate to a barely perceptible minimum. He no longer has to fly by the seat of his pants, learning music as he conducts it. The whizzkid is still whirling, but a purpose and direction may be discerned as he prepares his return to London.

Moreover... Miles Kington

## Just half a juggler

Because this column does not deal much in wars, death or economic disaster, it is assumed by many to be humorous, an impression I try to foster as much as possible. One strange side-effect of this is that publishers occasionally send me humorous books, being quite unaware apparently that humorous columnists are traditionally morose people who hate dogs, people and work in no particular order. But some of these books have been so life-enhancing that I have been driven to utter the occasional grunt or to think to myself that I ought to give them to someone for Christmas, and in gratitude I would like to mention their names so that they can stand up and take a bow.

*The Meaning of Liff* by Douglas Adams and John Lloyd (Pan £1.95) is a small dictionary giving fictitious meanings to placenames, such as Widdicombe: "The sort of person who imitates Trimpingtons", or Skellow: "Descriptive of the satisfaction experienced when looking at a really good dry-stone wall". This book has been widely criticised because Paul Jennings did the same thing years ago. Well, he didn't quite. Jennings was primarily interested in the sound and flavour of the placename; these two are much more interested in meanings for which there is no known word, and have amassed a great collection.

For instance, this is the first time I have seen the brilliant concept of "overously indecisive about how safely to dispose of a dud lightbulb" expressed. The fact that they have matched it with Gladys is irrelevant. And what about "One of the rather unfunny newspaper clippings pinned to an office wall, the humour of which is supposed to derive from the fact that the headline contains a name similar to that of one of the occupants of the office"? It's a Suiter, actually, but a snitter by any other name would read as dully. NB: Some of the definitions are risqué. Not enough, but some.

*The Oxford Book of Pseudonyms*... No, I didn't laugh at that. *Sweet and Sour* is a marvellous mixed salad of comic verse from the kitchens of Christopher Logue (Penguin £6.95), which occasionally gets a bit too near poetry but most of the time is full of unknown wonderful tastes. It's only just exceeded by *The New Ewart: Poems 1980-82* (Hotchinson £4.95) and I don't care if this was published in 1982 - I've only just got round to Gavin Ewart's superb verse, which I suppose is my own silly fault.

I would have nominated *The Rainy Day Biff* as comic drawing book of the year (Chris Garratt and Mike Kidd's switched-on postcards are maturing faster than Glen Baxter's stuff) if I hadn't encountered Hunt Emerson's *The Big Book of Everything* (Knockabout Comics £3.95). Emerson's style does bits from California, a bit from Krazy Kat, a bit from jazz... oh, who cares about influences, it's just mind-blasting free-wheeling stuff which would make the man famous here if Britain showed the respect for humorous drawing that France, Germany or America does. Personally, I'm proud to be British along with a man like this.

*Second From Last in the Sack Race* by David Nobbs (Methuen £7.95) is the funniest and saddest ovel of the year. From the Reginald Perrin workshop, it seems to dig deeper without losing a sense of humour. If I said it was the story of a northern childhood you would run screaming, so I won't. Put it this way: Turn to page 93 and read the first big paragraph starting "His reading was wide and various. He read *Biggles Flies North*, *Biggles Flies South*, *Biggles Flies East*, *Biggles Flies West*, *Biggles Flies In*, *Biggles Flies Out* and *Biggles Sweeps the Desert*. They were written by Captain W. E. Johns, whose main virtue was that he was the greatest writer who ever lived..." and I challenge you not to read more.

I see that the great *Ascent of Rum Doodle* is out again, which does for mountaineering what P. G. Wodehouse did for valets. But the book I have read most often is *Juggling for the Complete Klutz*, by Cassidy and Rimbeaux (Fontana £4.95 including three juggling balls) which has left me half a juggler. It hasn't made me laugh, but it has made me cry, groan, whoop, grunt and swear (as each ball fell behind the bed just when I was getting the hang) which is more than *War and Peace* ever did.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 223)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

- ACROSS  
 1 Wealth (6)  
 4 Washbasin (6)  
 7 Abundant supply (4)  
 8 Other self (5,3)  
 9 Indulged (8)  
 12 Moisture drops (3)  
 15 Insincerely (6)  
 16 Grinder (6)  
 19 Urge on (3)  
 24 Bearing (8)  
 25 Chew away (4)  
 26 State of uproar (5)  
 27 Subtle point (6)
- DOWN  
 1 Marzmal  
 2 hindquarters (4)  
 3 Secondary wife (9)  
 3 Usual chaos (5)  
 4 Turning cutter (5)  
 5 Undergo change (4)  
 6 Railway truck (5)  
 10 Cautious (4)  
 11 primrose hybrid (5)  
 11 Seed furrow (5)  
 12 Detonation (9)  
 13 Curious (4)  
 14 Curious (4)  
 18 Dodge (5)  
 20 Kingdom (5)  
 21 Unsolved (5)  
 22 Seek appendage (4)  
 23 Askew (4)

SOLUTION TO No 222  
 ACROSS: 1 Mentor 5 Dibs 8 Taunt 9 Control 11 Euphoric 13 Atop 15 Dalai Lama 18 Hide 19 Falgible 22 Calcutti 23 Whiff 24 Grey 25 Notary  
 DOWN: 2 Equip 3 Tot 4 Rectification 5 Dune 6 Biretta 7 Steep 10 Lope 12 Ogle 14 War 15 Daddler 16 Chic 17 Betsy 20 Briar 21 Bury 23 Wat

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### Real cost of flooding

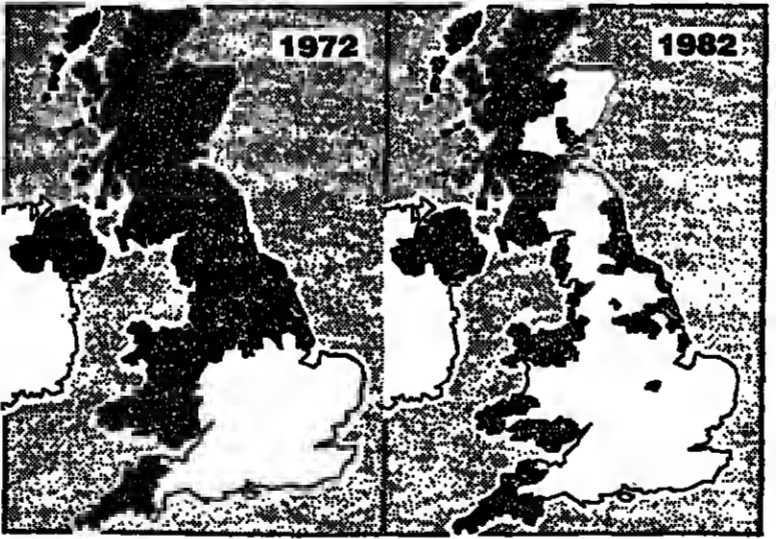
Prediction of the location, frequency and severity of flooding, both coastal and by rivers, is a matter of major practical significance. Water authorities and some local authorities routinely make such assessments. The Thames Barrage, for instance, was only constructed after exhaustive appraisals of the likely risk of a tidal surge inundating low-lying areas of London. Most such studies incorporate a cost/benefit analysis.

One topic in which academic geographers both in the United States and in Britain have played a leading part is in establishing not only the real but also the perceived hazard and in comparing these. Specifically, the Flood Hazard Research Centre in Middlesex Polytechnic is run by geographers and has carried out a series of studies under contract to various agencies. One of their recent projects was an assessment of the benefits of coast protection proposals for Swalecliffe, carried out at the bidding of Canterbury City Council. The area suffered flooding in 1978 and 1979; Parker, Green and Penning-Roswell have shown that, to those involved, the intangibles of worry, disruption of life and health effects rank even higher than damage to houses and contents (which currently form the basis of cost-benefit appraisal of flood-control schemes).

**Regions in crisis**  
 Half a century has passed since the first major government legislation on regional assistance. By the 1970s, there existed in Britain a notable degree of consensus on the need for an active policy aimed at reducing the gross economic disparities between regions. The incoming Labour Government of 1974 retained the "Conservative" 1972 Industry Act as the basis for its regional policy. The consensus has collapsed in the last few years and the present Government has progressively reduced both the areas qualifying for aid and the level of the aid itself.

### FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: Applied geography



**Charting industrial decay: the changing face of Britain**  
 What has not existed until now is a comprehensive, consistent and a detailed survey of the impacts of the recession in the regions of Britain. This has now been provided by the Regional Studies Association through a panel of geographers, economists, planners and sociologists interpreting the findings of dozens of local experts throughout the country.

**Armageddon located**  
 Thanks to the work of Openshaw and Steadman, we now know that the Home Office descriptions of the likely impact of a nuclear strike on Britain are seriously in error. The official estimates have now been acknowledged by the minister as fallacious, resulting from a series of computational mistakes and unreasonable assumptions. The duo contributed important evidence to the British Medical Association inquiry into the medical effects of nuclear war; they have gone further and produced an assessment of the likely effects of various different attack strategies.

Their results, published in *Doomsday: Britain After Nuclear Attack* (Blackwells) are based upon popular data for no fewer than 150,000 areas in Britain and use arguably the best available assumptions on blast

damage and fallout, provided by the US Department of Defence: protection from buildings and meteorological and many other factors are taken into account.

Their computer models predict and produce maps of the geographical extent of the holocaust. Locally, the variations in survival rates are, of course, extremely great: with the "most realistic" strategy, in which missiles are aimed at industries and targets of military and strategic significance, the survival rate within counties varies from 0.6 per cent (Lancashire) to 99 per cent (East Sussex).

### Geography of cricket

Cricket lovers will need no reminding that fortunes in their favourite game are intimately linked to British weather. The events of last summer, in which a number of games in the early part of the season were washed out and many games were subsequently played in debilitating heat, amply confirm this contention. But what if the effects are not random, i.e. what if some teams consistently suffer more frequently than others from the vagaries of the weather? Clearly where teams are in good form and liable to win, then the abandonment of matches deprives them of points in the county championship.

The climate of different parts of Britain is, therefore, a matter of real concern to counties and to the MCC. Thorne has conducted an analysis of the direct effects of rain on cricket and used as data the 170 County matches played in 1974, one of the wettest cricketing summers on record. Of these, 85 were rain-affected in one way or another. Two matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled, including Hampshire's final fixture against Yorkshire - which probably cost them the championship.

Taking into account the changing incidence of rainfall throughout the season and the variations throughout Britain, all based on data for a 30-year period, Thorne concluded that the effects of rainfall were substantial and should be compensated by the addition of weather-compensation points, related to the time lost in a game.

**David Rhind**

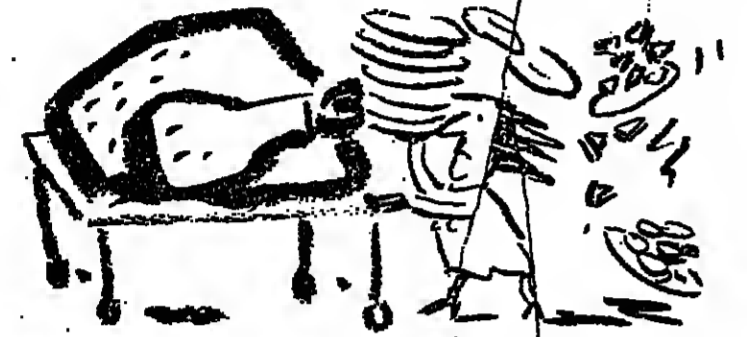
هكذا من الأصل



WEDNESDAY PAGE

DIARY OF A JOB HUNTER

I have been buttering bridge rolls, serving sausage rolls, transporting turkeys through underground corridors...



disappointed. Stuffing dates with marzipan to feed 300 - allowing three per head - demanded perseverance rather than culinary expertise or artistic ability...

PENELOPE LEACH THE PARENTS



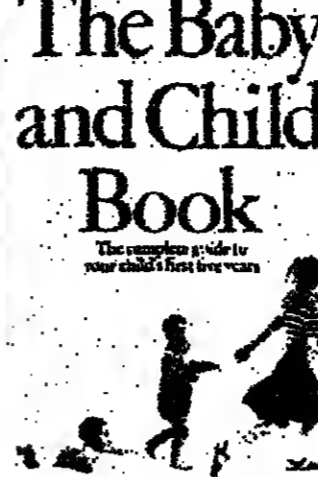
Babies do not arrive with operating instructions and a service manual: this is clearly perceived as a lack both by new parents and by publishers...

MIRIAM STOPPARD'S BOOK OF BABY CARE



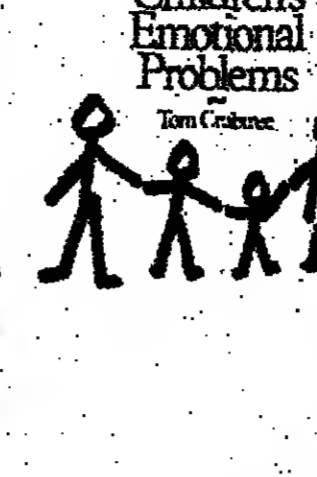
with chopping-board or grater, moul, grinder, blender or mincer". I tried all this in a half-hearted way with our first baby...

Dr Andrew & Penny Stanway The Baby and Child Book



Books on rearing children fall into two very different classes: there are the cosy and general ones, full of pictures and keen to offend no one...

An A-Z of Children's Emotional Problems



Mothers who work or who would like to return to work while their children are small would do well to avoid Penelope Leach and the Stanways: Dr Leach especially has the vapours at the idea of a mother going out to earn bread...



refreshing too for owning to a sleepless child who simply cries himself into a vomiting fit when treated to the Penelope Leach approach of saying goodnight calmly but firmly then refusing to lift the child from the cot.

Bringing up baby

Talking turkey

and refrigerate it for at least 24 hours. Just before serving decorate the tacchino (tonno) with a border of lemon wedges or fresh bay leaves...

THE TIMES COOK

Shona Crawford Poole Salt and freshly ground black pepper. Nutmeg, freshly grated. 340 g (12 oz) short crust, flaky or puff pastry.

THE TIMES COOK

pan and fry the leeks very gently until they are just tender, breaking them as little as possible. Remove the leeks and add the mushrooms to the pan...

THE TIMES COOK

180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) until the pie is cooked. Another popular category of request was for "something different but not too extravagant or difficult".

THE TIMES COOK

1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds, 6 whole cardamom pods, 2 bay leaves, Salt, Juice of 1 fresh lime, or a lemon, 300 ml (1/2 pint) single cream.

TALKBACK

From Mrs Sue Baker, Grange Farm Cottages, Pax Hill, Lindfield, West Sussex. I was interested to read Hilaire Gomer's article on the pros and cons of amniocentesis testing...

Q. WHAT'S LONG OR SHORT AND GOES DOWN WELL AT CHRISTMAS?

Without question there's only one answer for Christmas spirit - plus the finest choice and superb value into the bargain. A. PETER DOMINIC CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

Advertisement for Peter Dominic Christmas Crackers, listing various wine and spirit products with prices. Includes a list of drinks like Whyte and Mackay Whisky, Peter Dominic Lager, and Liebfraumilch Blue Nun.

quality outland st will o take South July-ing a um. Lord world would ional's edical has Lord's could th an meet- s the South plan- t the up the for if tour c his being art of ason. ys he alian staff f the an- ertive. it is onal om- t be one Can py y it the sign very s to fore F hree ates sent ting lock fern t as a nan stol has this ter, a las ial.

THE TIMES DIARY

Domestic tiff

Jo Richardson, Labour's women's rights spokeswoman, is finding it difficult to muster enough indignation among Labour MPs to oppose the Government's Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill when it returns to the Commons next month.

...coming to blows

An advertisement in The Caribbean Times headed Marital Arts, offers an alarming view of the wedded state: "We are looking for staff qualified to at least black belt level. We would like one of these posts to be filled by someone who can lead our young women's self-defence class."

Open secret

The release of the Mosley papers reveals a rather feckless attitude on the part of MI5. One of the letters recently made public is about the disappearance of Mosley's passport. It is addressed to a Mr Bell at the Home Office and bears a huge "Secret" stamp, which seems not to mean very much since the letter ends: "If you are not the proper person to whom this request should be addressed, would you mind passing on this letter?"

It is being discreetly pointed out to those Tory MPs not quite sure that abolition of the GLC would be a good thing that a vacant County Hall could house at least one government department now situated in Whitehall. These offices in turn would provide comfortable offices for MPs now working in cramped conditions in the House of Commons.

No show

It's not only ground traffic indicator lights that do not work at Madrid's accident-prone Barajas airport. On the morning after last week's fatal collision, a member of The Times foreign staff changing planes there found that his flight was not on the electronic departure board, which was running badly behind actual flight departures. The harassed official at the information desk said he did not know the departure gate number, or the flight time and there was no way of finding out. The automatic hand-driers didn't work either.



'Nigel's furious. The fake he bid for has turned out to be an original'

Front office

Blackpool's first package holiday has been launched. For £60 you are transported from anywhere in Britain or Ireland to spend four nights in the Lancashire resort. The press office promoting the event is in Brighton.

Written off

Hambro Housley, Legal Protection Ltd, are offering journalists free insurance schemes with cover of £12,000 "to encourage a better understanding of the market". How the firm can afford this generosity might interest those who actually pay for such cover: "The cost to us," they write, "is negligible."

Scared off

Children getting a book called Worst Christmas King of the Scarecrows this Christmas may be puzzled by some of its unfamiliar characters, such as Rooney, Father O'Malley and Mrs O'Riley. Although the cover says "Based on the television series", the series referred to has never been made. The plan was to be made in Ireland - where costs are substantially lower than in England - by James Mitchell, who produced The Irish R.M. series. HTV agreed to help finance the series, provided it became an HTV production. Large sums were spent on scripts, production plans advanced. Then the HTV union shop demanded full ITV crewing levels and pay and location allowances. HTV cancelled the production and wrote off the money spent. Negotiations are now going on for production to start in 1984.

Time is running out, Mr Brittan

by Robert Kilroy-Silk

The Home Secretary has repeatedly promised that prisoners on remand would no longer be held in police and court cells by the end of this year. He has little time left. At the last count, on November 24, 478 prisoners were held in prison cells, among them nine youths and 17 women and girls. Earlier this year the practice was confined to the Metropolitan Police area. Now it has spread to 15 others.

The number of prisoners in police custody varies from day to day. The average is somewhere between 150 and 250, though a record of 511 was recently achieved. But whatever the number, the conditions in which they are held are, as the police are the first to point out, often appalling. Court cells are designed to hold prisoners for only a few hours, not for several nights or even weeks. Yet this is now the daily routine in London and elsewhere.

The worst conditions of all are probably at Camberwell court in south London, where two prisoners share a cell much smaller than the Victorian prison cell designed for one. The prisoners sleep on adjoining mattresses, one of which is on the floor, are locked up for at least 23 hours in every 24, are allowed exercise only if sufficient police are available to guard them and have no educational, vocational or

training facilities. Washing and toilet facilities are inadequate and there are no facilities to receive visitors, including legal advisers.

Such visits, as I witnessed earlier this year, take place with the visitor standing in the corridor and talking through the spyhole in the cell door. The whole procedure is degrading to the prisoner, the visitor and the police. Yet these are the lucky ones, at some other centres visitors are not allowed at all.

These prisoners, let us not forget, are on remand. They are still innocent, still unconvicted. Many, indeed will be acquitted, or if convicted be given a non-custodial sentence. Yet every one will have spent weeks, if not months, in dungeon-like conditions.

The Home Office now says it cannot calculate the number of police officers employed in dealing with remand prisoners in police cells. Last February, however, we learnt that about 26 sergeants and 90 constables were guarding 202 prisoners at 26 locations. As the number of prisoners and locations has increased, so, no doubt, has the number of police guards.

We know also that the cost to the Home Office of police overtime alone amounted to £1,725,865 between January and October 1982. This is an expense we could do

without, particularly at a time of extensive cuts in the health, welfare and social services.

Moreover, the police have better things to do with their time. Those officers currently acting as turnkeys joined the police force, we assume, to catch criminals. Given the increase in serious crime, especially in London, that is clearly where they are most needed.

So the Home Secretary's promise to end this disgraceful practice by the end of 1983 is welcome. But can he keep it? It is no good his saying that he has embarked on a prison building programme that will provide 10,000 new places by 1991. We need them now.

He has added to the prison population by the changes he has made in the parole system for long-term prisoners. The release of short-term, non-violent offenders will not be on a sufficient scale to help him fulfil his promise.

Something more immediate and more radical is needed. The question then is, has Mr Brittan the political courage to provide it? We do not have long to wait to find out.

The author is Labour MP for Knowsley North and chairman of the Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group.

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One lame duck after another

As Congress continues to thwart Reagan's economic policies, Godfrey Hodgson asks if the US can ever be effectively governed

Ronald Reagan's bold assertions of presidential authority in Grenada and in Lebanon contrast strangely with his utter inability to achieve the central goal of his administration's economic and domestic plans three years ago: a balanced budget. Instead, Americans are learning to live with the prospect of a budget deficit, year in, year out, of \$150-200 billion.

The contrast drives home a paradoxical truth. Whether he is activist or hesitant, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, the president of the United States, so powerful abroad, is often almost impotent at home. So when most Americans are already yawning with impatience at the dazed ballyhoo that the candidates will inflict on them, many of their more thoughtful fellow-countrymen are thinking not so much about who will be elected president in 1984, but how to change things to enable him to govern more effectively.

The reform of the presidency as an institution is now very much on the agenda. The trouble is that though there is wide agreement about what is wrong, no one so far can agree on what to do about it.

In the summer of 1980 Lloyd Cutler, a Washington lawyer, wrote an article which argued bluntly that the American system of government didn't work. He pinpointed the cause of the trouble as the utter lack of cooperation between president and Congress. "A particular shortcoming," ran the key passage in the article, "is the structural inability of our government to propose, legislate and administer a balanced programme for governing. In parliamentary terms, one might say that under the US constitution it is not now feasible to 'form a government'."

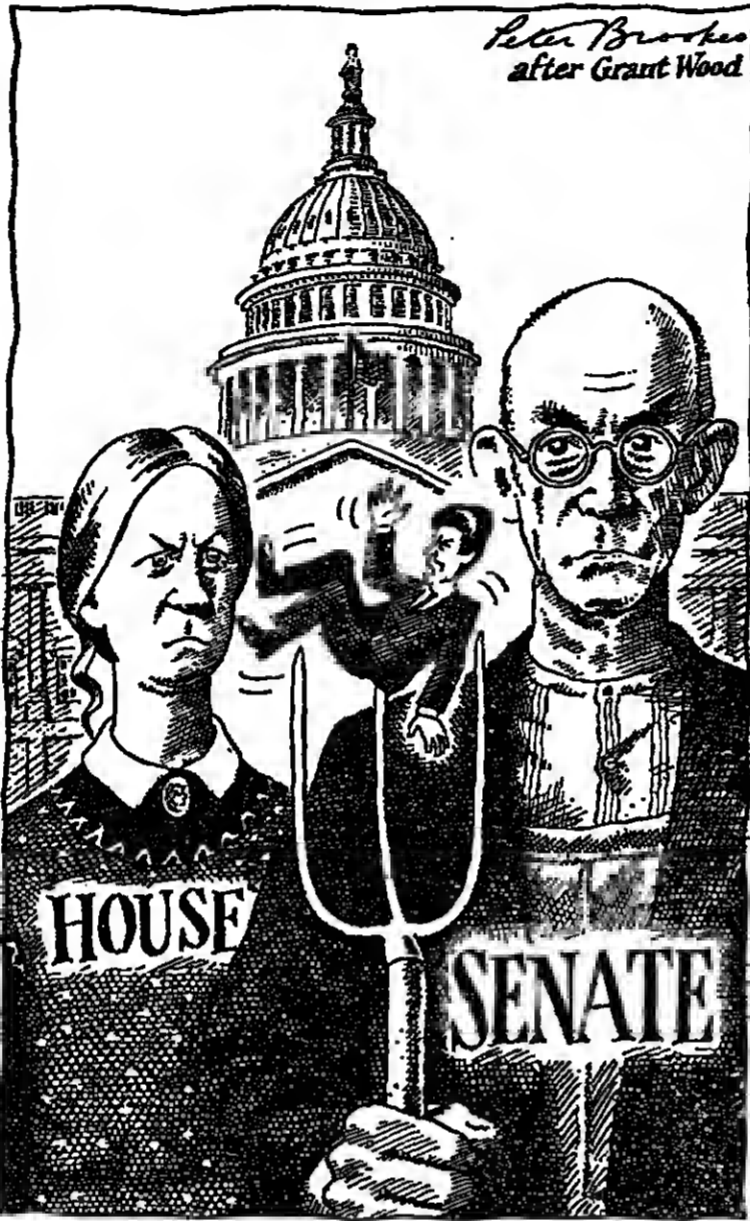
Today Dillon and Cutler are the two co-chairmen of the committee on the constitutional system. Among its members are such heavyweights as Robert McNamara, once Secretary of defence, and until last year president of the World Bank. Cutler has just returned to the United States after a term based at All Souls, Oxford, where he studied the British, West German, French, Irish and other constitutions in search of ideas that could be adopted in the United States - a strange reversal of the process by which the Americans long exported their constitution to the world.

The committee is still tabulating and analysing dozens of proposed changes in the American constitution that have come from politicians, political scientists and public bodies of every kind. Some of these could be adopted without formal amendment of the constitution. That would be the case, for example, with changes in the party nominating conventions which choose presidential candidates: they are not mentioned in the constitution.

Because the meeting had been so long postponed, the mere fact that Comecon's prime ministers gathered in Berlin last month was news. As well as confirmation of the existing conflicts and Moscow's intransigence towards the satellites' pleas for more oil, came a growing awareness that Moscow is going to make the East European take the brunt of reform measures. Rather than further sacrifice the Soviet economy, it is prepared to force efficiency on Eastern Europe.

The Soviets were understandably reluctant to hold the meeting because Comecon's rolling price formula has raised Soviet oil prices by 30 per cent in the past two years. While the Hungarians argue for a real, transferable, rouble and even the lame Bulgarians demand higher prices to send food to Russia, the Soviets had to ward off a chorus of complaints about their unwillingness to guarantee future oil supplies, even at present levels which are 10 per cent below those of two years ago.

If the satellites feel hard done by, their resentment is overshadowed by the Soviets' increasingly grudging largesse, which fostered the communist bloc's increase in energy use in the 1970s from 15 per cent to 22 per cent of world consumption. Like any addict, the satellites' increased use led to further demand, to the point where the Soviets were sacrificing their own economy for the satellites' benefit.



Peter Brookes after Grant Wood

the operation of our basic system of government.

Given the American readiness to experiment, even with something as sacred as the constitution, most of the proposed reforms that do not involve formal amendment have already been tried.

The organization of Congress has been profoundly changed - and it is now more fragmented and ungovernable.

A new congressional budget process has been tried - and in most people's opinion has failed.

The laws on campaign finance have been overhauled - and money speaks louder in Congress and in campaigns than ever.

Of the reforms that would need constitutional amendment, one group aims at linking the president more closely to the leadership of his party in Congress, either by bringing congressional leaders into his cabinet or by giving cabinet members some role in Congress. Either would run into jealousy on Capitol Hill. More seriously, for almost half of the past 30 years, one house of Congress has been controlled by a party different from the president's - which would make this kind of cooperation unworkable.

Some of these could be adopted without formal amendment of the constitution. That would be the case, for example, with changes in the party nominating conventions which choose presidential candidates: they are not mentioned in the constitution.

Efficiency - the force that could pull the Soviet empire apart

At official exchange rates, Soviet oil is already \$2 costlier than the world market price. Considering the rouble could be as much as double its real value, according to Jan Vanous of Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates in Washington, the price of Soviet oil remains attractive to Eastern Europe. But the Soviets also accelerated their demands for repayment for their oil in goods of higher calibre than the East Europeans have hitherto had to provide. Moreover, the Kremlin wants the satellites to commit themselves to paying a greater share of the cost of developing Soviet sources they want to benefit from the results of exploration.

While the Soviets are being put on the defensive for suddenly foisting these demands on the satellites, they have obviously delayed the confrontation with Eastern Europe to the detriment of their own economy. According to estimates published by the United States government, oil subsidies to Eastern Europe, from 1974 to 1978 alone, cost the Kremlin almost \$100,000m,

amounting to \$78 for every man, woman and child in the recipient countries. Originally, Stalin arranged that the satellite economies after the Second World War would become heavily dependent on Soviet raw materials and oil. The countries were given huge steel plants in new cities, often named after Stalin, in Moscow's unique form of exploitation. Where previous empires had been run by technologically advanced countries that wanted the colonies' raw materials, the Soviets in this case were more backward than the satellites, and exploited them by foisting cheap raw materials on them in excessive quantities and getting manufactured goods in return.

After Stalin's death, the harshest forms of exploitation were abandoned, but the same system of reliance on Soviet raw materials remains. It continues to be a good deal for the Soviets until 1973, when the long enjoyment of cheap raw materials in the post war period came to an end. At that point, the exploited, as designed by Stalin,

A second set of proposals seeks to link the president's fortunes more closely with those of members of Congress by synchronizing elections. In theory, congressmen would then feel under more pressure to support the president's legislative programme.

Thus, members of the House who now sit for two years, might sit for four years. Or presidents could be limited to a single, six-year term, like senators. Or Senators, congressmen and president could all be elected for four years.

Apart from the extreme unlikelihood of the Senate, for example, voting to limit its own term, a major difficulty is that most members of Congress now collect far more votes in their own district than the presidential candidate can win in his own party. And would presumably have no additional stake in the success of the president's programme.

Other proposals - for the dissolution of Congress if it does not pass the president's programme, or for the compulsory passage of the budget in certain circumstances - are even less likely to be passed. Nobody can imagine Congress voting to curtail its own power.

According to the constitution, any constitutional amendment must be proposed by either two thirds of both houses of Congress or two thirds of the States; must then be ratified by three quarters of the States.

What that means is that any constitutional change drastic enough to make the machinery of government in Washington work more effectively is unlikely to become law. And any change that has a chance of becoming law is not likely to have an effect commensurate with the problem.

In the circumstances, what most realistic observers in Washington consider the best hope at, confronted by the difficulty of getting a majority of both houses of Congress to pass the legislation the president believes the country needs, is the present uneasy relationship between the White House and Capitol Hill will soften.

As Lloyd Cutler wrote in his original article, after watching the Senate run down the Salt II treaty which Mr Carter had spent years negotiating, "the most one can hope for is a set of modest changes that would make our structure work somewhat more in the manner of a parliamentary system, with somewhat less separation between the executive and the legislature than now exists."

But Americans, ever quick to acknowledge that they have anything to learn from foreign examples, are even less in a mood to do so at the moment. So in spite of all the earnest discussion of reform, the odds are that not only the candidate elected in 1984, but his successors in 1988 and 1992 as well, will have to do their best to operate the presidency under the same rules as Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

The author's story of the American presidency, All Things To All Men, was published in 1980.

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because the exploiters, since the 1960s and 1970s brought about corresponding increase in the size of the towns on and around the lower Loire - Angers, Nantes, Poitiers, Niort, La Roche sur Yon. The new industrial proletariat, unlike its Sunday-fishing fathers, has cars, will travel - and what more natural place for people to travel than the sandy beaches closest to hand?

But what is desirable in promoting this invasion by a government programme to finance golf courses and yacht marinas? With an extensive development going on in the south (Roussillon-Languedoc) and a chain of little seaside resorts along the Normandy coast from which the tide of fashion has receded, might it not have been more sensible to consolidate and revamp installations that were already there or planned, rather than divert funds to one of the few undeveloped coastal regions left in Europe?

The point is not a simple one, either practically or ethically. What can be said, however, is that there were certain spots along the Atlantic coast which had a natural protection from exploitation, and that this, at least, should have been respected. In particular, two islands - the Ile de Noirmoutiers in the north, off the Pays de Retz, and the Ile de Ré in the south off La Rochelle - should, say the ecologists, have been left to sun, wind, pine woods and the limited number of visitors and their cars that could crowd on to ferry boats.

Frank Lipsius

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Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Hoofing it to EEC harmony

You pay your money and you make your choice. In Monday's Times I read the rival verdicts of Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, and Labour's Eur-spokesman, Robin Cook on the Athens summit. Mr Cook thinks, not unexpectedly, that I left it further away from securing agreement on our terms than we were six months ago. M Mauroy - also not unexpectedly - thinks that, on the contrary, "the crisis which was revealed in Athens could be salutary". I agree with Mauroy if not for the same reasons (and he does have a nerve) to assert that dumped EEC farm exports "fulfil its duty to the Third World": tell that to the Mauritians, M Mauroy.

There were three all hazards surrounding the summit, and all three were avoided. If ascending order of probability, the were that in return for the release of our "promised" refund of \$30m for 1983, a promise of further specified refunds for 1984 and 1985 and some Solomon Binding words about restraint of agricultural spending, there would have been agreement to raise the ceiling of VAT transfers to the Community from one per cent in 1984 to 1.4 per cent; that in the absence of any agreement we should have embarked on higher prices for the farmers; but that he would have to dig his heels in until Britain had first obtained satisfaction over budget refunds. Our partners, quite logically, decided that Britain could not invoke the Luxembourg compromise to block a firm price increase which our own minister had positively endorsed. Who could blame them?

Resistance to farm price increases based on a firm approval for an increase in VAT transfers would be a totally different proposition. Of course it would only be the key to force the issue, not a solution in itself. Having concentrated farming ministers' minds on the prospects of imminent bankruptcy, we would need to offer constructive suggestions to begin to put things right. The Brussels Commission's plans for super-taxes to tax the over-production of milk would be all too likely to pass straight on to the consumer, thereby cutting consumption and pushing up the surpluses.

The real need is for a drastic cut in cereal prices. For the greatest of all the follies of the common agricultural policy is the manner in which it is shrinking livestock production, for which western Europe is well suited, and trying to match the prairies. But there isn't a chance of a start on fundamental reform unless the cash is seen to be running out. That is up to us.

In the light of the outcome of the Athens summit - and this is not the least of its virtues - it should surely be a shortsighted rip-off. For

Gillian Tindall

How green was the Vendée

No tract of country belongs to the national government which happens to be its custodian. It belongs, in essence, to the workman to anyone who is likely to go the or to benefit from it, whether it is a European shore, the mountain of Nepal or an Amazonian rain-forest. If a national government is not being an efficient and honourable custodian of the land without mandate, then the rest of the world should raise an alarm.

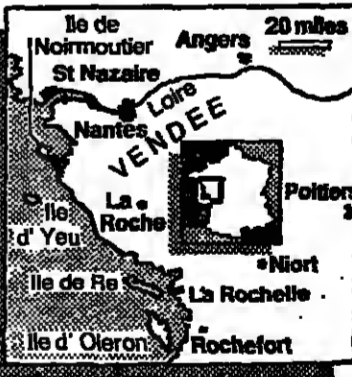
The rolling Atlantic coast of western France has, historically, been a modest place and a lovely one. With more than a touch of Lincolnshire fen about it, at sunset, it has been rich in birds, fish, oysters, lobsters, salt and solitude. Fishermen and walkers have gone there; painters and people in small boats tack down from Brittany. But although Brittany had already been heavily colonized by tourism 20 years ago, the delicate and understated landscapes of the Vendée, even 12 years ago, still retained their fragile distinction.

This state is no more. Fragility and understatement are two commodities which even the most sensitive tourist board cannot hope to exploit - and sensitive is in a case not the word to describe who has happened in the Vendée: "rapé would be better."

Some of the violation was probably unavoidable. The increase in French prosperity during the 1960s and 1970s brought about corresponding increase in the size of the towns on and around the lower Loire - Angers, Nantes, Poitiers, Niort, La Roche sur Yon. The new industrial proletariat, unlike its Sunday-fishing fathers, has cars, will travel - and what more natural place for people to travel than the sandy beaches closest to hand?

But what is desirable in promoting this invasion by a government programme to finance golf courses and yacht marinas? With an extensive development going on in the south (Roussillon-Languedoc) and a chain of little seaside resorts along the Normandy coast from which the tide of fashion has receded, might it not have been more sensible to consolidate and revamp installations that were already there or planned, rather than divert funds to one of the few undeveloped coastal regions left in Europe?

The point is not a simple one, either practically or ethically. What can be said, however, is that there were certain spots along the Atlantic coast which had a natural protection from exploitation, and that this, at least, should have been respected. In particular, two islands - the Ile de Noirmoutiers in the north, off the Pays de Retz, and the Ile de Ré in the south off La Rochelle - should, say the ecologists, have been left to sun, wind, pine woods and the limited number of visitors and their cars that could crowd on to ferry boats.



terms the effect is rather as if the M3 now had a spur leading straight on to the Isle of Wight. In passing I would like to pay tribute to whatever authority has such an understanding grip on the Isle of Wight that its small-scale, charm remains largely intact to this day.

Anybody can make a mistake, but making the same mistake twice is less forgivable. Incredible as it may seem, the French government is now planning similar treatment for the even smaller and simpler Ile de Ré. If you want to see the island in a relatively unspoilt state, go within the next year. Otherwise it will be too late.

The naive, pseudo-egalitarian argument of "more enjoyment for more people" ignores the enormous variation in the resilience of different landscapes to human pressures. There are many places which, even when heavily colonized by holiday-makers, retain their essential quality. You cannot tame an Alp; you cannot reduce the cliff-hung, beachless coast of Dalmatia to the level of the Costa Brava; you cannot make the Swiss, Italian and Austrian lakes, however polluted, less than beautiful. But a landscape which essentially offers not drama but gentleness, not "fun" but contemplative relaxation, is not shared or "opened up" or "made more accessible" by the attentions of the tourist juggernaut: it is destroyed.

مكتبة من الأصل



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VICTORY FOR THE LAW

When the TUC general council meets today it will have before it Mr Joe Wade's account of what his union might do if the leaders of the movement supported its policies for the further prosecution of the Warrington dispute. The NGA might impose another 24-hour strike, he said, or reintroduce mass picketing, or begin an indefinite stoppage. His actions and his words indicated the character of the NGA's commitment: having squandered £750,000 of its members' funds to no purpose, it is prepared to persist with illegal action so long as it is the rest of the movement that shares responsibility for the consequences. If not, not. This was the prospect that Mr Len Murray saw opening up beneath his feet on Monday night, causing him to repudiate with unprecedented force the earlier decision of a senior TUC committee.

The leaders of the NGA have no illusions of omnipotence. They see plainly that their cause can only be won if the TUC can be persuaded to take it up as a battering-ram in a constitutional challenge to Parliament and the courts. But the Warrington dispute is the worst possible ground from which to launch a political challenge. The timing is wrong, with the Government endowed with a fresh mandate and the TUC in delicate negotiations with ministers about the next round of legislation on industrial relations. The NGA corresponds as little as any union in Britain to the "Banner Bright" stereotype of the impoverished proletariat struggling to resist the exploitations of powerful management.

The principle the union is fighting for is the right of a union to insist that workers become members against their wishes - of all union objectives, the one that attracts the least public sympathy. The means the union has adopted on the streets have been illegal not only since the Tenth laws but at any time this century. And of course, if the union wins, the implications of success through such methods would be something that future governments would have to live with, whatever their colour.

Concerted plan for conveyancing

Nothing will eradicate these problems. Nevertheless, a much-needed overhaul of the conveyancing process is long overdue. The legal profession has, I think, been slow to respond to changes which are necessary, but in its own limited field it is now taking vigorous steps for improvement. But it would be wrong to load the blame on the legal profession. Many others involved in the conveyancing process have, for years past, been equally sluggish, including Government departments, local authorities, building societies and others.

Need for openness in public life

Why cannot the British public know the plans of a corporation it owns, and which is supposed to operate pro bono publico? It is easy to find out such details about privately owned American utilities: you ask and you receive. The ECC itself, originally the consumer's watchdog, is little better. The first formal mousetrap passed on becoming a statutory body was to exclude the press and public from its meetings. It spent a third of its next meeting berating me for refusing to accept its confidentially proposals.

At its third meeting it refused to associate itself with the 1984 campaign on Freedom of Information. And at its fourth meeting, yesterday, it declined to press the CEEB in a forthright manner for the information to which it is legally entitled: it was more concerned to get on with the industry than to get on with its job. Secrecy is an endemic disease of British public life. It breeds the sloppiness and trimming that characterise so much behaviour. We need openness in public life to discipline performance and make it accountable.

WHEN GENERALS DISMOUNT

After the approval yesterday of Mr Turgut Ozal's cabinet by President Kanan Evren, Turkey is now once again formally under civilian rule. It has achieved this only three days behind Argentina, where military rule was introduced, in rather similar circumstances, four and a half years earlier.

The circumstances of the return to civilian rule, by contrast, could hardly be more different in the two countries. The Argentine military rulers not only overstayed their welcome long enough to mismanage the economy quite as spectacularly as their civilian predecessors; they actually managed to involve their country in an unnecessary and disastrous war, thus dashing any hope that they might retain the authority to dictate the terms of their own departure and insure their impunity for the violations of human rights committed under their aegis.

Imprisonment of large numbers of suspected terrorists during investigation, and execution of some of the worst offenders when duly convicted, are clearly quite a different matter. But many of those still imprisoned in Turkey for political reasons have not even been accused of terrorism. Mr Ozal enjoys a considerable fund of Western goodwill, both as a competent economist capable of ensuring Turkey's continued creditworthiness and as a civilian who has come to power by popular choice, even if the field of choice was artificially limited. Turkey herself, even if some feel she is the main obstacle to a solution of the Cyprus problem, is generally seen in the West as a reliable and indispensable ally.

Calke Abbey

Harpur-Crew trustees have offered heretofore property, at a cost to themselves of an additional £2.9m in tax and £1m in interest, whilst the negotiations continue, so much for the "advantage" to them and the contribution expected of them. What then is Mr Macfarlane's "significant contribution"? He is prepared to permit the trustees their statutory right to hand over the heretage property, but out its support, in lieu of tax; thus he denies the nation the benefit of such exercise - it seems as a punishment because, as you indicate, the trustees did not practice tax avoidance to the tune of the £7.5m, which could have saved Calke and made them, not the nation, that much richer.

French press ruling

From Professor R. Errera Sir, Re your editorial, "Stop Press" (December 12), it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the merits of the dispute involving the NGA. However, I might interest your readers to know how an analogous problem was dealt with in France.

Oxford admissions

From Professor H. Lloyd-Jones Sir, Professor Ronald Mellor (December 6), referring to a letter in the New York Times, published in 1980, in which I ventured to suggest that President Reagan was not a stupid man, writes that I "assured its readers that European intellectuals had the highest regard for the mental capacities of candidate Reagan". So it is not surprising that his comment on my recent letter (November 14) about admissions to Oxford needs some elucidation.

Looking after parks

From Mr Robert Holden Sir, Leslie Lane is right to argue (December 10) that a park such as the Lea Valley, which benefits the whole of London, should continue to be funded on an all-London basis. If the GLC is abolished this principle should also be applied to the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC. I have in mind Hampstead Heath and Blackheath, which straddle London borough boundaries, and the GLC's major new parks, Mile End and Burgess Park, whose financing and completion would otherwise be an undue financial strain on the respective London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

AID TO AN ADVERSARY

Russia has relied heavily on Western experts and know-how since the time of Peter the Great. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Western capital and technical assistance flowed into new industries. After the revolution Western assets were seized but Lenin soon granted concessions to Western companies. Even when these were abolished Western firms continued to sell goods, plant and know-how. After the war East-West trade declined during tensions and then revived in the 1970s. Today Soviet imports of Western machinery continue to rise in spite of the cooler political atmosphere.

The problem is to find the right response. Overall Soviet growth may not have been significantly helped by imports from the West, but there are obviously certain key areas of the economy which have gained, and in some of these there have also been military benefits. One of the examples most often cited in the United States is the Soviet purchase of American grinding machines which produced precision bearings for missile guidance systems. On the other hand Admiral Lunan has testified in Washington that about seventy per cent of Soviet military gains attributed by the CIA to Western technology were acquired by Soviet and East European intelligence services using clandestine, technical and overt collection operations. Therefore legitimate trade is probably not the main culprit, and where it has been helpful to the Soviet military it has often been supplying electronic goods which are freely available over the counter in a great many parts of the world.

At the same time damaging to Western interests. Cut down on academic publication and you limit innovation. Limit the movement of modern technology and civilian applications will suffer. Tighten controls on exports and domestic firms lose contracts to competitors outside Cocom. Press the Europeans too hard and they stop relying on American suppliers and licences. Try to guess which innovations are going to have vital military applications in five years' time and you face a hopeless task. Yet the Soviet Union clearly cannot be allowed to have an easy ride, even if its failure to catch up with the West in spite of all the help it has had suggests it will continue to lag behind for the foreseeable future.

Sentences on Turks

From Professor Emeritus Peter Worsley and others Sir, Over the last two years more than 600 academics have been sacked from Turkish universities; the establishment of a Higher Education Council has enabled President Evren to appoint university rectors and dispense with university autonomy and laws. Now (The Times, November 15), after an 18-month trial, savage sentences have been passed on a number of academics and intellectuals prominent in Turkey's peace movement.

From Mr Alex Henney

Very often there is a long chain of transactions all of which are held in abeyance until a particular transaction can be brought to a conclusion. Nothing will eradicate these problems. Nevertheless, a much-needed overhaul of the conveyancing process is long overdue. The legal profession has, I think, been slow to respond to changes which are necessary, but in its own limited field it is now taking vigorous steps for improvement.

From Mr Robert Holden

Sir, Leslie Lane is right to argue (December 10) that a park such as the Lea Valley, which benefits the whole of London, should continue to be funded on an all-London basis. If the GLC is abolished this principle should also be applied to the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC. I have in mind Hampstead Heath and Blackheath, which straddle London borough boundaries, and the GLC's major new parks, Mile End and Burgess Park, whose financing and completion would otherwise be an undue financial strain on the respective London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, Peace is not disarmament. It was the recognition of this simple fact which led Mr Attlee's Labour Government, in 1949, to join with other countries in establishing Nato - perhaps the most outstanding voluntary decision ever made by sovereign nations determined to defend their freedom.

From Mr Robert Holden

Sir, Leslie Lane is right to argue (December 10) that a park such as the Lea Valley, which benefits the whole of London, should continue to be funded on an all-London basis. If the GLC is abolished this principle should also be applied to the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC. I have in mind Hampstead Heath and Blackheath, which straddle London borough boundaries, and the GLC's major new parks, Mile End and Burgess Park, whose financing and completion would otherwise be an undue financial strain on the respective London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

What Keynes meant

From Professor Richard Rose Sir, Professor Silberston (December 3) has done a useful service in reminding us of the context in which Keynes wrote: "In the long run we are all dead."

The name's the thing

From Mr Andrew MacLean Watt Sir, I'm sorry The Times felt it appropriate to be so cute and condescending about the Japanese use of English-derived or English-sounding brand names (Ross Davies, December 2).

From Mr Robert Holden

Sir, Leslie Lane is right to argue (December 10) that a park such as the Lea Valley, which benefits the whole of London, should continue to be funded on an all-London basis. If the GLC is abolished this principle should also be applied to the main metropolitan parks owned by the GLC. I have in mind Hampstead Heath and Blackheath, which straddle London borough boundaries, and the GLC's major new parks, Mile End and Burgess Park, whose financing and completion would otherwise be an undue financial strain on the respective London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark.

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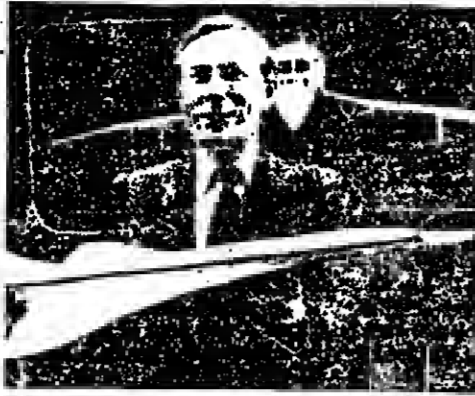
THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

British Airways in the shadow of Telecom

By any standard, accounting or otherwise, Lord King, Mr Colin Marshall, Mr Gordon Dunlop and the rest of the senior management team have done a remarkably fine job putting British Airways into commercial and financial shape.



Colin Marshall: management team successful

The job has taken much longer than he thought, but if it is true, as BA and its financial advisers insist, that BA is ready for take-off early next autumn, he is entitled to feel slightly miffed by the Government's consuming obsession with selling 49 per cent of British Telecom.

The attraction for the Treasury of £4 billion from Telecom is not hard to understand. Nor are the risks. Opposition to the Telecom sale is fierce, notably among private sector companies.

In addition the marketing of an issue of this size for a corporation of Telecom's complexity will test every nerve and sinew of Telecom's bankers, brokers and professional marketers.

The crux for potential investors, British and American, will be the pricing formula the Government adopts to protect Telecom's customers from abuse of its monopoly power.

If that fear is realized - precedents in nationalized industry pricing argue that it will - BT would be valued in the market as a dull utility and not as a high technology growth stock which everyone would want to hold.

The schedule for the Telecom sale is extremely tight and it still might not be met. The sale, though on time, might be a frost. The BA sale might have to be put back further and in a volatile business such as airlines, the commercial weather can change rapidly.

The date for the company's transfer to the status of public limited company (plc) has been set for April 1, 1984, a date not meant presumably as a joke, and the pension fund problem that raises its head in every privatization issue appears to be resolved.

The two important issues of BA's dominance of international routes and the

shape of its balance sheet have still not been resolved. On the balance sheet, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, and the Treasury are still keeping their options open.

BA's profits this year and next are capable of paying off up to say £300m of its outstanding £950m of debt by the time of flotation. Mr Ridley has dropped hints that BA can make further contributions with the sale of assets, including possibly its helicopter and Airtours divisions.

Revaluation of assets on the positive side of the balance sheet would also help to make the debt figure more manageable and provide BA with an operational balance sheet. In the last analysis there will be a trade-off between the debt and the proceeds of the flotation. BA looks like being valued at £800m or so on the market, but net proceeds from the sale of shares will be much lower than this figure implies, whatever debt restructuring scheme is adopted.

As for British Caledonian's cheeky, but politically astute bid for some of BA's assets, the Government has neatly dodged the issue by referring the matter to the Civil Aviation Authority, the statutory authority which issues licences. It will produce a statement on the principles underlying the allocation of routes in about six months.

Lord King will resist any efforts to strip some of his prized routes away but do not be surprised if the outcome of the review is a "spontaneous" decision by BA to unload some assets in the direction of its smaller rivals.

Time the Eagle was landed

Speculation over the outcome of the bidding for Eagle Star was reaching fever pitch last night. As this morning's 9.30 deadline for Allianz Versicherungs to beat the 660p per share offered by BAT loomed nearer, the market was saying that Allianz had negotiated to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle for £8 a share.

All sides quickly denied the rumour. Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, who had most to gain if it proved true, was one of the first to say that although he had heard the market gossip, he did not believe there was any truth in it.

The Takeover Panel was also adamant that Allianz would come back with improved terms, and spent much of yesterday afternoon agreeing the wording of today's announcement from Allianz. Despite the denials, Eagle's shares rose by

22p to close at 719p yesterday. But those closest to the battle continued to debate what the Allianz offer terms will be.

Allianz has four options. To come back at a few pence more, which would mean a bid of between 661p and 670p per share. To produce a blockbuster - a winning bid - in the region of £7 per share. To produce a bid which is conditional upon more information from Eagle Star. To produce a bid which is conditional upon the agreement of the Eagle board.

Whatever the outcome, the show has gone on for too long. The future ownership of Eagle Star must be decided quickly to protect the interests of policyholders and employees who may be tempted to desert the company, thus destroying the successful business which has tempted such takeover interest.

Pound plunges again as oil price doubts intensify

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Jonathan Davis

The inexorable rise of the dollar combined with speculation over lower North Sea oil prices pushed sterling to new depths against the American currency yesterday.

For the first time the pound fell below \$1.42 and it also weakened against other leading currencies, closing 0.5 down at \$2.0 on its trade-weighted value.

Most of the pound's recent weakness has reflected the rise in the dollar. Other important currencies have suffered likewise. But yesterday's reports of a cut in the British National Oil Corporation's prices, coming at a time when oil jitters have made sterling vulnerable, led to heavy selling in the afternoon.

At one stage the pound touched \$1.4175 before recovering slightly to close in London down 1.15 cents at \$1.4195. However it was soon down to \$1.4170 in New York trade.

The dollar rebounded after an early setback on the big rise in US retail sales in November which dealers interpreted as another sign of the rapid US growth which could encourage the Federal Reserve to tighten reins on monetary growth.

Renewed tension in the Middle East fuelled its rise as the dollar reached record heights against the franc and the mark. Towards the London close the dollar was pressing against the DM2.70 level although it closed 1.5 pennings higher on the day.

Sterling ended a Pennings weaker at DM3.9325 and some dealers believe it could weaken further against the strong dollar, a view shared by Mr David Morrison of Simon & Coates, the stockbroker. He said the twin pressures of oil price fears and demand for dollars could push sterling as low as \$1.38.

There was no sign of any

significant Bank of England intervention yesterday. The Treasury is believed to be unwilling to risk frittering away reserves in attempts to support the currency beyond the usual smoothing.

The British National Oil Corporation confirmed that it had opened discussions yesterday with oil companies about the price of North Sea oil, following last week's Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in Geneva.

Industry reports suggested that US oil companies were likely to put pressure on BNOC, the traditional price-setter for North Sea oil, to cut the reference price of \$30 a barrel by between \$1 and \$1.50 from January 1.

Such a move would not only put further downward pressure on sterling, but would also raise the prospect of retaliatory action by Opec, as happened

this year, with the associated threat of a price-cutting war and a sharp drop in prices.

BP, Shell and Esso, the most important producers of North Sea oil, are asking a more cautious line however, and the possibility of anything more than a marginal drop in the price of North Sea oil is considered remote by most industry analysts.

Shell UK confirmed that it was talking to BNOC about prices for the first quarter of next year, but said: "It is not our intention to press for a reduction in price."

Esso also said that it had not made any request.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, is keeping an eye on developments, but the official line is still that the government will leave it to BNOC to settle prices in response to market forces.

Confidence crumbling

Fears of a lower North Sea oil price and a crumbling pound sent investors scurrying for cover yesterday as confidence in the stock market continued to crumble.

The FT Index closed at its low for the day 3.1 down at 750.6 as the pound lost more than a cent on the foreign exchange to close at a new record low of \$1.4190.

Investors showed little inclination to establish new positions just two days into the long three week Christmas account and dealers were last night taking a gloomy view for the rest of 1983, looking for prices to drift gently lower on lack of support.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 750.6 down 3.1 FT 100: 82.43 up 0.08 FT All Share: 483.50 down 0.85 Barclays: 20.855 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.33 down 0.08 New York Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1259.65 down 1.94 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,385.56 down 6.90 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 862.81 up 6.07

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling 1.4195 down 1.15 Index 82.0 down 0.5 DM 3.9325 down 0.0100 FF 11.9925 down 0.00125 Yen 335.50 down 3.25 Dollar Index 130.8 up 0.4 DM 2.7692 up 0.0152 NEW YORK CLOSE Sterling \$1.4170 Dollar DM 2.7680 INTERNATIONAL ECUEU: 57.5342 SDREU: 72.5869

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 Finance houses base rate 9 1/2 Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4 3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4 3 month Fr F13 1/2-13 1/4 US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 9 1/2 Treasury 9 3/4-9 1/2 long bond 9 1/2-9 3/4

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$389.75 pm \$389.20 close \$389.00-\$389.75 (\$274.00-\$274.50) New York (latest): \$389.50 Kruggerand (per coin): \$400.50-402.20 (\$282.25-283.25) Sovereigns (new): \$91.25-\$92.25 (\$64.25-\$65.00) Excludes VAT

Inchcape in £36m cash takeover

By Jonathan Clare

Inchcape is buying Transcontinental Services Group's trade services division for £36m in cash. Transcontinental intends to use this to expand the financial services field and the board says that it has already examined several businesses.

The trade services division became a subsidiary of Transcontinental more than a year ago, and represents the bulk of the company's interests. Transcontinental subsequently made several acquisitions for division in the fields of loss adjusting, cargo inspection and non-destructive testing.

Transcontinental is a holding company incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles in September last year to acquire Esperanza International Service. Board members include Lord Kissin and Mr Jacob Rothschild.

Companies in the trade services division include Caleb Brett, Graham Miller, Matthews-Daniel and Gelatly Hanley. The division made profits of £4.3m on turnover of £70.4m in the year to last March and has net assets of £12.8m.

The companies acquired by Inchcape are essentially those which formed the old Esperanza group.

The deal will almost double the net assets of Transcontinental from £11p per share to 208p per share. Transcontinental has a cash balance of £20m and a financial services division which acts as an investment management and trust administration business.

Output falters but trend is upwards

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Industrial activity faltered in October, but production was still 1.9 per cent higher than a year earlier according to figures from the Central Statistical Office.

After showing a revised 0.7 per cent rise in September, industrial production slipped by a provisional 0.5 per cent in October. The index of manufacturing output fell by 0.3 per cent, to stand 1.2 per cent above a year ago.

The monthly figures for industrial production have been consistently erratic and have been revised frequently. Over a three-month period, which officials believe gives a better indication of the underlying trend, the figures suggest that activity is still rising slowly, but the recovery remains patchy.

In the three months to October industrial production was 1 per cent above the level of manufacturing output, while oil and gas extraction showed a 6 per cent rise.

Figures yesterday from the Department of the Environment in the construction industry reveal a 7 per cent rise in output in the third quarter of this year over the second quarter.

The latest industrial production figures are unlikely to resolve the debate over the durability of the economic recovery. However, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor yesterday sought to reassure critics about the accuracy of the Government's autumn forecasts.

He compared the Government's forecast for growth with the result in a written parliamentary answer, which showed that the Government had underestimated the drop in gross national product in 1980, but had underestimated the growth in the economy last year and this.

Clausen plea to Reagan

From Bailey Marris, Washington

Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, President of the World Bank, has sent an urgent letter to President Reagan asking him to join 32 other nations in providing increased development funds to the poorest countries.

Mr Clausen appealed to the President after the collapse of negotiations in Paris on an increased level of funding for the World Bank's International Development Agency (IDA).

At the Paris meetings, the US turned aside the appeals of 32 other nations to provide a total of \$12 billion \$8.4 billion in replenishment funds for the IDA. It said that it could not get that amount through Congress.

Instead, the US said it would cut its own commitment to 25 per cent of the total or \$750 m over three years which would result in a more restrictive overall level of \$9 billion.

Mr Clausen said the lower level of funding would not be enough to see the poorest nations through the debt crisis.

Budgen bids £12.8m cash for Bishop's

By Our Financial Staff

Booker McConnell, which operates the Budgens supermarket chain, has emerged as the bidder for Bishop's Group, formerly Bishop's Stores, nearly six months after news of an approach became public.

Booker, which is involved in food, engineering and publishing is offering £12.8m in cash with a loanstock alternative.

The terms have been accepted by the Bishop's directors and shareholders who control 61 per cent of the ordinary shares and 51 per cent of "A" shares.

Bishop's and Budgen are not direct competitors in any area and Booker expected both to benefit from economies of scale.

Mr James Gulliver's Argyle Group, which operates the Presto supermarket chain, was also said to have been interested in Bishop's Stores.

The terms are 291p cash for each ordinary share and 221p cash for each "A" share. The loanstock alternative is 9.5 per cent loan notes 1989, and the terms will appear in the formal offer document.

Slough announces terms

By Our Financial Staff

Slough Estates' takeover terms for Allnatt London Properties and Guildhall Property will create an industrial property company with a market value of between £325m and £350m and a portfolio worth £650m.

The terms were announced yesterday, just a day after the surprise news that the three property companies were talking again. Negotiations had been publicly dropped two weeks before.

Yesterday the participants said that the deal was a merger of the three, but analysts said that it looked more like a merger on Slough's terms.

Slough is offering 185 of its shares for every 100 in Allnatt, equivalent to more than 220p per share. The terms for the much smaller Guildhall are equivalent to about 150p a share. But there are attractive cash or loanstock alternatives which the City believes most outside shareholders would accept.

They are equivalent to 245p per share for Allnatt stock and 162p per Guildhall share and compare with a combined net asset value for both companies of 291p. The two are controlled by two shareholder-directors, Mr Leslie Smith and Mr Ronald Diggins, who are taking Slough shares.

Together with family interests, the two control about 60 per cent of Allnatt's shares.

Targets are Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya and Algeria

UK aims at 25% export jump

By John Lawless

Britain has adopted a new business strategy in the Middle East which aims to increase exports, now running at more than £6 billion a year, by 25 per cent.

The plan will be outlined tomorrow to industrialists and bankers when they meet at the Confederation of British Industry headquarters in London.

The Government is ready to commit far more of its financial resources to back-up services for exporters in four target markets: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Libya and Algeria.

Although it recognizes the political sensitivities of grouping those countries together - especially because of Saudi fears about the possible spread of the Iranian revolution - Department of Trade and Industry specialists believe the four offer the best prospects.

A key part of the strategy is to raise substantially the level of British industrial investment in

conference, which will be chaired by a Midland Bank international director, Lord Selouson, the Government's chief business adviser on Middle East affairs.

Private meetings with key industrialists are being arranged for the New Year. Mr Tebbit and his officials will stress the need to have at least two joint venture factories from each British industrial sector established in Saudi Arabia - although particular emphasis is to be put on petrochemical companies setting up downstream operations.

Senior Saudi ministers repeatedly told Mr Tebbit that their own private sector will increasingly provide the motor for economic growth. And they gave a warning that, with the big construction phase of development now over, future orders will be directed first to Saudi companies, then to joint ventures with foreigners and only as a last resort to overseas suppliers.



Mr Norman Tebbit: emphasis on joint ventures.

Saudi Arabia. This plan was finally agreed after Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, visited the country at the beginning of this month.

Saudi Arabia will be the subject of tomorrow's CBI

Points from the Interim Report

Promising Developments in Oil Operations

- \* Recent developments in oil operations will significantly improve second half results.
\* Production from the Maureen oil-field started in September. Acquisition of additional holding in Maureen from BET and purchase of unit in BP's Forties field will both be effective on January 1, 1984.
\* Results improved at Calor Group and in Oil Operations Group at interim stage. CompAir results adversely affected by intensified price competition, particularly in construction sector.
\* Interim dividend increase of one-third (from 3p to 4p) reflects intention to reduce disparity between mid-term and final payments.

Table with 4 columns: (All figures in '000's), Half year to 30.9.83 (unaudited), Half year to 30.9.82 (unaudited), Year to 31.3.83 (audited). Rows include Turnover, Trading profit, Depreciation, Income from allied companies, Share of profits of associated companies, Income from general investments, Interest (net), (Loss)/Profit before taxation, Taxation, (Loss)/Profit after taxation, Minority interests, Extraordinary item, (Loss)/Profit attributable to IC Gas.

Figures for the half-year provide little guidance to the outcome for the year because of seasonal influences on the Group's activities and because at that stage no contribution from certain major elements of the Group's investment in Belgium is included.

IC Gas Group comprises: CALOR GROUP - sale and distribution of Calor Gas and appliances; COMPAIR GROUP - manufacture and supply of compressed air equipment; OIL OPERATIONS GROUP - gas and oil exploration and production; BELGIAN GROUP - investments in electricity and gas industries and in Petrofina S.A.

IC Gas logo and contact information: Copies of this Interim Statement can be obtained from: Imperial Continental Gas Association, 4, Mezzanin Place, London EC2Z 9ES.

FAMILY MONEY LORNA BOURKE THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY SATURDAY

Boots, the high street chemist, rose 2p to a new high of 186p yesterday celebrating the news that one of its rival's anti-arthritis drugs had been withdrawn from the market.

Boots rises to new high

Mr Richard Thornton's split with GT management looks like being good news for RIT & Northern where he has joined the board. It has also succeeded in focusing attention on RIT's warrants 2p dearer at 78p yesterday.

aiming for the industrial market Mr Monty Sumray, chairman and managing director, says tests show a 70 per cent success rate and could make a big difference to profits.

Dealers are hoping for a healthy premium on shares of Henara when dealings start next Wednesday. The 2.6 million shares are expected to be oversubscribed when lists close later today.

Over the Unlisted Securities Market the non-voting shares of Tye Tees Television could only establish a small premium in first time dealings opening at 138p compared with the 15p the 480,000 shares were placed at by broker Wise Speake.

More than half of the shares placed come from Trident Television, the former parent group, which continued to own about 20 per cent of the shares. At this level the group is valued at just under 7m.

figures from Boots is continuing to recommend the shares. The equity market generally was in the doldrums as the Christmas spirit began to take effect.

The FT Index closed at its low for the day 3.1 down at 750.6 with lack of support in the run up to Christmas leaving prices to drift gently lower.

On the foreign exchange the pound tumbled more than a cent to its lowest level against the dollar closing at \$1.4190. As a result losses of about 50p were reported in gilts at the longer end amid nervous trading, while in shorts the losses were reduced to about 4p.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS and MEDICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for LONGEV and COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for LOCAL AUTHORITIES and C-E.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for DOLLAR STOCKS and BANKS AND DISCOUNTS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES and F-H.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL and A-B.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for I-N and J-O.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for P-R and S-T.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for U-Z and T-Z.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for I-N and J-O.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for U-Z and T-Z.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for SHIPPING and MINES.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for SHIPPING and MINES.

Advertisement for BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY and other products, including 'Over McC...' and 'MAY INVEST PI'.

Handwritten text in a box: 'مكتبة من الأصيل'

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Overseas boost doubles McCorquodale earnings

Joint ventures in South Africa and Brazil have again provided a significant improvement in the profits of McCorquodale, the security and specialist printer.

The contribution from associated companies more than doubled to £2.4m, helping the group to an 18 per cent rise in pretax profits to £7.3m in the 12 months to the end of September.

The figures also include what McCorquodale describes as an important but unqualified contribution from two American companies to which the company took an interest during the year.

Given the strong overseas performance in Britain, which accounts for 65 per cent of group profits, looks as though it had a flat year.

However, £600,000 has been charged above the line on trading profits to Britain to pay for redundancies.

And the company says that there are now mildly encouraging signs that markets for its business have been picking up.

So with the help of the overseas companies - which the group would like to represent 40 per cent of its pretax profits in about five years - McCorquodale notched up its seventh successive increase at the pretax level.

At the bottom line, the group has come out £55,000 in the black after revaluing overseas assets and deducting exchange gains and losses. Last year's comparable figure was a deficit of £906,000.

As a result retained earnings after paying an 11 per cent increase in the total dividend, came out at £3m, against £1.9m last year.

However, despite the positive flow, expansion plans and capital spending is beginning to reflect in higher borrowings on the balance sheet.

In 1981-82 bank loans and overdrafts rose from £4.1m to

£7.2m, which represented a 39 per cent gearing ratio. This year, the net debt to equity ratio has increased to 44 per cent.

McCorquodale has spent £10m on capital investment this year, and expects to spend £6m in its present financial year.

The shares yesterday eased 2p to 281p. The price has already discounted a profits increase and should have some way to climb given the present undemanding price earnings ratio.

Intasun

The holiday travel price war is about market share as numbers of travellers decline. Interim figures from Mr Harry Goodman's Intasun reflects the company's success in eroding the position of its main competitors, Thomson, the biggest, and Horizon, third after Intersun.

Pretax profits, from which the winter loss figures are subtracted, show a firm rise to £20m on turnover up from £104m to £140m.

The company looks like a group denying that a price war is taking place but gearing up for defence: cash holdings of £46m, no debt and buying in business. It held back its 1984 holiday brochure to prevent the competition from improving its 9 per cent price cuts.

A new division catering to the lowest end of the market was established and the North East-based Airways Holidays was bought. Mr Goodman continues to attack the problem of maintaining business in the winter and by early this month had raised bookings 50 per cent. But that will not reduce winter losses. Their are expected to exceed last year's £1.5m due to the summer acquisition and the introduction of the budget Lancaster Holidays.

Mr Goodman's forte is travel and, out surprisingly, the travel division carried a record

562,000 passengers though more importantly it increased the load factor from 93.4 per cent to 95.8 per cent.

Mr Goodman expects to increase market share next year from 14 per cent to 16 per cent and see a growth rate of 20 per cent. He claims the 9 per cent price cuts are balanced by currency gains and would not harm profits.

Mr Goodman said his "gut feeling" was that next year would be the best for three or four years. On that basis the interim dividend increase from 1-4p to 1.8p may not be overly generous. But if Mr Goodman's forecasts for next summer are borne out by bookings over the next three months the final is likely to be a pleasant surprise.

Meyer Int.

The results from Meyer International were bang on market expectations and confirm the high hopes broker analysts had for the reorganized and rationalized businesses of the leading timber groups, Meyer and International, which merged 18 months ago.

Pretax profits rose from £6.3m, made at the bottom of the timber trading cycle, to £16.7m on a turnover up from £161.6m to £280m. The interim is increased 10 per cent from 1.50p to 1.65p while earnings per share climb from 4.6p to 10.6p.

The company could not fully quantify the cost benefits from the merger but estimated them at about £3m to £4m.

The shares still reflect a very cautious, possibly unjustified, attitude to performance at 152p yielding 3.5. That is a very substantial discount on the sector as a whole and, given that the second-half is expected to perform as well as the first, there seems plenty of leeway for an increase in share price.

Economic commentary: Tim Congdon looks at the effect of lifting exchange controls

Why Britain's foreign nest-egg quadrupled

The North Sea nest-egg: How Britain's foreign assets have increased since 1979

Table showing Holdings at end of 4th qtr 1979 and 1st qtr 1983 in £m, and Change over the period in £m. Categories include Other financial institutions, Industrial and commercial companies, Personal sector, and Non-bank private sector as a whole.

Source: Financial Statistics, September 1983

could make additions in only two ways - by buying foreign securities from other British residents and by borrowing abroad to finance purchases. Not surprisingly, they had a strong pent-up demand for overseas assets.

The situation had changed radically at the end of the first quarter of this year. Other financial institutions had overseas assets of £33,174m and overseas liabilities of only £2,525m. Over the three years since the removal of exchange controls their net foreign assets had climbed by more than £22,000m to £30,649m.

Much of the increase reflected the large sums sent abroad after October 1979. Britain's portfolio investment overseas was £3,150m in 1980, £4,150m in 1981, £5,170m last year and £1,760m in the first quarter of this year, a total of more than £15,000m, with non-bank financial institutions probably responsible for not less than £12,000m.

Clearly, there is a gap - of about £10,000m - between the increase in the value of institutions' foreign portfolios and their new investment. The gap measures the capital gains that institutional fund managers achieved for the customers, the British public, over the period.

This £10,000m addition to the nation's wealth is welcome, not only because it is a tidy sum of money, but also because it has not required any serious productive effort. Deeper countries around the world, should be drooling with envy.

Of course, some of the gains would have happened anyway. If exchange control had continued and fund managers had stayed in domestic markets, there would have been capital appreciation on the securities held at the end of 1979. But the potential for gain was increased enormously by exchange control abolition. Indeed, the Government's timing seems in retrospect to have been very well-judged.

£8,000m. Without North Sea oil it is unlikely that so much foreign investment could have taken place. In effect, a lucky geographical accident has allowed Britain to resume its pre-1939 status of being a large international creditor.

There is a policy message here. In the late 1970s a public debate developed about the right use of North Sea tax revenues. There were two main schools of thought. One argued that the money should be directed to re-building Britain's "essential industrial base"; the other said that the North Sea bonus was temporary and should be directed to reducing the budget deficit.

The lobbyists for the "essential base" rarely explained in detail how the funds would be channelled to industries they deemed essential, but the rough idea seems to have been that the Government would set up a special national investment fund, which would make loans for the construction of blast-furnaces, aluminium smelters, shipyards, car plants and the like.

The assumption was presumably that these enterprises, no matter how dark, staid and loss-making, would give a better eventual return than overseas portfolio investment.

It is surely fair to comment that the managers of the pension funds, life offices and unit trusts have done a good job, while the intended recipients of national investment fund money have not. The fund managers' very profitable record has been possible because the Government used North Sea taxes to cut the budget deficit. It therefore had to sell less public sector debt, enabling institutional cash flow to be diverted to overseas equities and bonds.

To coming decades Britain's substantial foreign assets will yield a steadily increasing income which will protect the balance of payments as oil exports fall. There should no longer be any real debate about exchange controls and the deployment of North Sea revenues.

The author is economics partner of stockbroker, L. Messel & Co.

COMMODITIES

Table of LONDON COMMODITY PRICES for Rubber, Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, and Oil.

Table of COFFEE prices for various grades and origins.

Table of SUGAR prices for various grades.

Table of OIL prices for various types.

Table of COPPER prices for various grades.

Table of ZINC prices for various grades.

Table of LEAD prices for various grades.

Table of ALUMINIUM prices for various grades.

Table of LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET prices.

Table of LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES prices.

Table of LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET prices for Wheat and Barley.

Table of CHEAPMAN INDUSTRIES prices.

Table of PLAXTONS (GB) prices.

Table of BURNS-ANDERSON prices.

Table of G. M. FIRTH HOLDINGS prices.

Table of MEYER INTERNATIONAL INTERIM STATEMENT results.

MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS PLC advertisement showing financial results for 1983 and 1982.

Meyer International INTERIM STATEMENT advertisement showing financial results and company information.

Perstorp 1982/3 results advertisement featuring two large vertical images of Perstorp products and a line graph showing growth.

Perstorp 1982/3 results advertisement featuring a detailed financial table, a line graph, and a photograph of a man.





TENNIS: SURPRISES IN NEW SOUTH WALES TOURNAMENT

Lloyd puts out top seed to maintain run of success

Sydney (Agencies) - John Lloyd beat the top seed, Vitas Gerulaitis, 7-5, 6-3 in the first round of the New South Wales men's open tournament yesterday.



John Lloyd: back among the elite for the first time since 1978. Photograph: Chris Cole.

Top-heavy rewards

Kaarta (Reuters) - Martina Navratilova has clarified comments on prize-money at major events which she made at the Australian open championships in Melbourne last week.

CROSS COUNTRY

Big names to contest IAC race at Ipswich

By Pat Botcher The International Athletics Club cross-country race, sponsored this year by Rank Xerox, and moved from Crystal Palace to Chantry Park, Ipswich, has a small, but impressive line-up.

Rugby Union: Professional game to start in April - May

Lord changes course and sets his sails for the calmer waters of the Antipodes



Lord: Optimistic

By a Special Correspondent David Lord, the budding professional promoter, has been stretching the fabric of his planned international rugby extravaganza in many directions over the last three months.

international-quality teams from Ireland, Scotland and Fiji. But the acid test will come with Lord's plan to take his eight squads into South Africa for a tournament in July-August, without including a South African national team.

MOTOR RACING Renault rejoice as new car is unveiled

The Renault Grand Prix racing team, eager to brush aside its frustration at failing to win the 1983 world championship, have unveiled their new car for 1984 in a mood of optimism.

BOXING

England coast to victory over Germany

England's amateur boxers led by the Commonwealth champion, Rod Douglas, coasted to a comfortable 8-3 victory over West Germany at the City Hall, Hull on Monday.

Norster back for Cardiff

The British Lions and Wales lock, Robert Norster is back for Cardiff Athletic, against Glynneath on Saturday. Norster has been out of action for six months with back injury since the second international for the Lions against the All Blacks in Wellington on June 18.

A large financial table containing columns for 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds', 'Shares', and 'Bonds'. It lists various investment options with their respective prices and details.

FOOTBALL: WALES BANKING ON THEIR SPIRIT TO CARRY THEM THROUGH

Better the dragon you know

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

Wales have not won the home international since 1967...



Mike England: relies on regulars

The Welsh manager has asked for the qualities his side displayed in October...

for years. If we play along those lines, we will be in business...

And business it is, too. A place in the finals is said to be worth £100,000 to the Welsh FA.

The consistency of Yugoslavia's selection could scarcely offer a greater contrast...

Yugoslavia's two exiles Peruzovic, of Anderlecht, and Susic of Paris Saint-Germain...

He himself scored all three for Yugoslavia on his last visit to Cardiff in 1954...

pool's marksman, with 19 goals to his credit, is the main danger...

Yet they must overcome a psychological barrier to reach France...

The two sides last met in Cardiff seven years ago in another European Championship qualifying tie...

Wales: Southall (Barnet), J. Hopkins (Preston), P. Price (Preston), K. Haddock (Barnet), J. Jones (Cardiff), P. Price (Barnet), K. Haddock (Barnet), J. Jones (Cardiff)...

CRICKET

Attempt to hasten cut in overseas players fails

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Most of the proposals put before the Test and County Cricket Board at their winter meeting...



Monte Lynch: likely to face a suspension

he can hardly expect to get away without a suspension of some sort...

While on the subject of overseas players, it was agreed that the rules governing their eligibility to play for England...

one bounce an over may be bowled has been shelved...

There will be no change in the championship format before 1986 at the earliest...

There were other little bits and pieces, such as deciding that anything is better than having to toss for a one-day match...

The meeting was attended by two representatives of each county, in most cases the chairman and secretary...

Last chance for Luxembourg to gain some self-respect

Athens (Reuters) - Luxembourg, the only team in the European Championship yet to gain a point...

have to be serious if we want to avoid unpleasant surprises...

Over-confidence is the main danger to Greece and their coach, Christos Arzoumanidis...

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, D, L, Pts. Rows include Denmark, England, Hungary, Greece, Luxembourg.

important because goals are needed to carry the team past the group favourites...

Enrique Ramos, the Atletico Madrid forward, has been replaced by Sarabia...

Spain's goalkeeper, will miss their European Championship home match against Malta...

British fixtures incomprehensible

Distraught Hungarian punters forbidden to bet on their national league clubs...

While they appreciate the authorities' determination to clean up Hungarian football...

Not knowing anything about players or clubs in Britain, they believe betting is a waste of money...

Asked if the ban on Hungarian teams would now be lifted, Andor Tibor, the head of the State Sports Betting and Lottery Authority...

said in an interview that "there can be no betting on Hungarian football teams in the near future..."

He admitted that the Hungarian first division clubs had not been involved in the corruption scandal...



Cox: strongly criticized the Professional Footballers' Association

FA to seek legal advice on TV issue

Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association...

"strike" Cox said: "How can my players ever consider going on strike when they have brothers who are unemployed..."

Taylor explained that they were not talking of a strike, and that if the FA did not increase its cash offer...

One man who has already applied for a licence, is the owner of a pub in Stoke Newington...

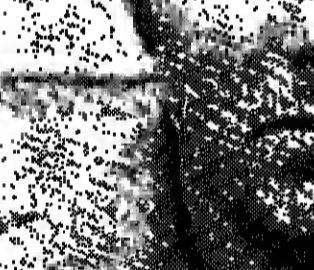
Cambridge and Docherty's reign

John Docherty of Cambridge United, the longest serving manager in the second division...

He has kept them in the second, where they have stayed for the last six seasons...

This season, however, has brought only two league victories. Cambridge are twenty first in the division and have not won since October 1...

The board acted in the absence of the chairman David Roston who returns today from a round-the-world business trip...



Docherty: the odds were always against him

Fulham to sign Sealy from QPR

Fulham, who have slipped into the relegation zone of the second division...

signed twice by the Rangers manager Terry Venables...

This is Fulham's first venture into the transfer market for nearly four years...

Fulham's neighbours Chelsea are to experiment with morning kick-offs over the coming holiday period...

Two ruled out over form mix-up

Graham Miles and George Ganin were ruled out of the world doubles championship...

An error on a public booking form was the cause of Miles' mistake...

Ganin, a professional for five months, said: "I am bitterly disappointed, I can't afford to miss 15 seeds, then switched to No 13..."

The tournament director, Gideon Lyned, rang Miles at his Birmingham home to find out why he had not appeared...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bramley season sours

The remarkable up-and-down story of Bramley has taken another downturn...

When the Bramley players refused to turn out against Hull Kingston Rovers...

The League have made it clear that they will not accept the resignation of any current Bramley player with another club...

Many supporters have written and telephoned to individual clubs and in League headquarters...

RUGBY UNION

South omit Laidlaw

after this season, but he needs only two more full honours to become the most capped of all Scottish scrum halves...

Four other changes in the South team are connected with injury...

Laidlaw has already hinted that he will not play representative rugby after this season...

It is not the first time Laidlaw, of Jed-Forest, has been left out of the district side...

TABLE TENNIS

Plean to boycott English Open

Carl Plean has decided to boycott the English Open championship...

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RACKETS

Boone shows no mercy

William Boone, aged 33, the left-hander who has challenged John Prens for the world championship...

Boone, an Old Eborian, generated such pace in the rallies that the Einn professional, who suffers from an injury to the joints of his knees...

Boone ended rallies at will with venomous left shots low down the wall or gently-timed angled drop shots...

Boone, an Old Eborian, generated such pace in the rallies that the Einn professional, who suffers from an injury to the joints of his knees...

RUGBY UNION

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SQUASH RACKETS

Sweet victory for Miss Opie

Lisa Opie, the top seed, took only 17 minutes - two of them devoted to the intervals between games...

She was always the more capable of stringing her shots together in ultimately productive geometric patterns...

and for a variety of reasons the prize money had to be restricted...

Some of her unforced errors arose from technical deficiencies...

Miss Opie was an admirably sustained demonstration of the way squash should be conceived and executed...

It should be noted that the men had an original draw of 64 at Abbeyleade, where only 16 women competed...

Miss Opie's was an admirably sustained demonstration of the way squash should be conceived and executed...

This is the first time the two championships have been combined with the backing of a single sponsor...

Christina Myers, organizing secretary of the Women's Squash Rackets Association...

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns: NATIONAL LEAGUE, FOOTBALL, AMERICAN FOOTBALL, CENTRAL, WEST, REAL TENNIS

Table with columns: WEST, CENTRAL, WEST

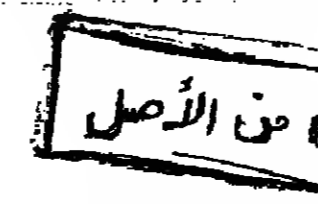
Table with columns: REAL TENNIS

First defence

The European super-featherweight boxing champion Alfredo Rainingor of Italy will earn £12,000...

for the first time against Francis Trapp of France in Loppo, Italy today...

The 26-year-old Neapolitan, a trainee accountant is still without a regular job...



CRICKET: CAPTAIN'S NINTH TEST CENTURY

Hughes sees Australia through to a draw

Kim Hughes dug deep into his reservoir of skill and perseverance to see his team through to a draw in the third Test against Pakistan at the Adelaide Oval yesterday...

From Ian Brayslaw, Adelaide. Hughes had the answers to Pakistan's attack. He possessed a high technique and is a powerful destroyer of the ball...

rough he really made the ball bite, but he just could not find the edge of the bat or the gap he needed to break through. He finished the game with two for 132 and the man who came to Australia to offer most of the "thunder down under" has just seven wickets for 461 runs from the three Tests so far...



Hughes: personal triumph Hick sticks and saves Zimbabwe

Colombo (AFP) - The four-day match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe fizzled out to a tame draw but yesterday Zimbabwe hit back after an early collapse...

RACING: TODAY'S MEETINGS HINGE ON EARLY INSPECTIONS

Champions set for happy returns

Michael Dickinson plans the return of his champions, Bregawn and Badsworth Boy, at Haydock Park today, but the meeting is subject to a 7.0 inspection after Major Philip Ayrwright, the clerk of the course, reported: "The thaw is going nicely, but there is still snow on the course..."

By Dick Hinder. "Bregawn is very well. He is as fit as we can get him at home, but obviously will be better for a race. He will also appreciate the softer going..."

Grand National. This eight-year-old made the most of Raenac's fall three out to triumph in Doncaster's Yorkshire Handicap Chase in January, but should not cope with Bregawn...

Harry Bell has had a remarkable season so far, sending out 26 winners from his Hawick stable, and his nine-year-old Boardmans Special may add to the tally by outstaying Neville Crump's dual scorer Replington in the Waterloo Hurdle...

Clay builds on a firm foundation

The Arundel trainer Tony Clay and his wife, Lydia, are certainly the combination to follow at Plumpton these days. Two runners yesterday brought them yet another victory by Alghathery Run, their fifth course, and a neck second by Viewed Away...



Goldyke clears the last on her way to a 20-1 victory in the December Handicap Hurdle

The surprise of the day came when the outsider Goldyke led over the last three flights in the December Handicap Hurdle, to hold off Josh Gifford's strongly fancied Stray Clay...

Always a winner, she was always travelling like a winner and jumped ahead three out to beat Sallier's Revenge by three lengths, Star Mellor, his trainer, said, "He is still my a baby, but a big leggy horse who could be a nice horse one day..."

The sponsor report further support for Burrenagh Hill led for the Coral Welsh National, and Jenny Pitman's charge is now 5-1 favourite. Other leading prices: 13-2 Ashley House, 8 Peasy Sandy, Gayo Chance, 12 Lucky Yawn.

Trotman comes to the rescue

Port Elizabeth (AP) - A West Indian XI were saved from a humiliating embarrassment by a cavalier innings of 96 by Emerson Trotman on the second day of their match against Eastern Province yesterday...

in a spell of seven overs. But after the break Trotman, well supported by Stephenson (45) in a stand worth 80 runs for the fourth wicket, played some fine shots in an aggressive innings which included 16 fours...

heading for a draw as it goes into its third and final day today. The home side last Armitage, lbw to Stephenson for four, and Daniell, who was caught by Kallicharan off Alleyne for ten.

Hanley to play for Northants

Rupert Hanley, one of South Africa's leading fast bowlers, will play for Northamptonshire next season. The Transvaal player is joining the county on a one-year contract as their overseas player in place of the Indian captain Kapil Dev...

Haydock Park

Racing program for Haydock Park including 1.0 STEWARDS HURDLE, 1.30 RIBBLE CHASE, 2.0 TOMMYWHITTLE CHASE, 2.30 WATERLOO HURDLE, 3.00 BOSTON PIT CHASE, 3.30 ASHTON HURDLE, 4.00 RIBBLE CHASE, 4.30 TOMMYWHITTLE CHASE, 5.00 WATERLOO HURDLE, 5.30 BOSTON PIT CHASE, 6.00 ASHTON HURDLE.

Haydock selections

Selections for Haydock Park races, including 1.0 Bedlam Hill, 1.30 Worcester, 2.0 Bregawn, 2.30 Boardmans Special, 3.0 Badsworth Boy, 3.30 Derry Island.

Catterick Bridge

Racing program for Catterick Bridge including 12.45 KIPLING HURDLE, 1.45 CHARLES VICKERY CUP, 2.15 ELERTON CHASE, 2.45 BROMPTON HURDLE.

Catterick selections

Selections for Catterick Bridge races, including 12.45 Pelixstone Lad, 1.15 Dancing Nymph, 1.45 Barrier Reef, 2.15 Kelpie, 2.45 Antony Joe, 3.15 Pause for Thought.

Plumpton results

Results for Plumpton races, including 2.0 NEWFIELD HURDLE, 2.30 BOSTON PIT CHASE, 3.00 ASHTON HURDLE, 4.00 RIBBLE CHASE, 4.30 TOMMYWHITTLE CHASE, 5.00 WATERLOO HURDLE, 5.30 BOSTON PIT CHASE, 6.00 ASHTON HURDLE.

Catterick results

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of football fixtures including European Championship, FA Cup, and various league matches.

HOCKEY

Table of hockey fixtures including Great Britain vs Malaysia, Canada vs India, and other international matches.

BAMBER TAKES SHORT CUT FOR BRITAIN

By Sydney Friskin, Hongkong. Great Britain emerged from the shadows to achieve their first victory in the Ten Nations tournament here yesterday. From being a goal down by half-time they covered sufficient ground to defeat Malaysia in a group B match...

SKIING

Another slalom for Stenmark. "I just let the skis go." The next men's event is a downhill to be scheduled for Val Gardena on Sunday. There is women's slalom at Sciliar tomorrow...

BADMINTON

Outsiders in finals feel the heat. Jakarta (Reuters) - Extreme heat and humidity, plus the daunting task of beating Indonesia's top three players at home, face the outsiders in the final of the first grand prix finals beginning here tonight...

STENMARK'S TOUGH ANSWER

Courmayeur, Italy (Reuters) - Ingenieur Stenmark raced to his seventh World Cup slalom triumph on Sunday. There is women's slalom at Sciliar tomorrow...

CHINA'S FIVE

Peking (AP) - China will compete in five events at the winter Olympic games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, the Chinese Olympic committee announced yesterday. They will take part in speed skating, figure skating, alpine and cross-country skiing and the biathlon.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report December 14 1983

Court of Appeal

Admitting 'without prejudice' letters

Cutts v Head and Another
Before Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Fox
[Judgment delivered December 7]

prejudice" and set out proposals for settlement which undoubtedly would have been more beneficial to the defendant than the order in fact made on the determination of the action.

"If the protection of 'without prejudice' correspondence as to costs rested on the conventional import of the words, the wide and continued practice adopted and recognised albeit without challenge, in all divisions of the court showed that the conventional meaning had become capable of modification where express reservation was made at the time of the offer."

Lord Justice Fox delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors, Phillips & Co, Salisbury, Church Adams, Tatham & Co for Wilsons, Salisbury.

Extending time for tenant's application

All v Knight and Another
Before Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice O'Connor
[Judgment delivered December 6]

There was then an agreement between the parties' solicitors to extend the relevant time limits, since the parties wished to solve their problem by negotiation.

Lord Justice Eveleigh said that the tenant served a request for a new tenancy, in July 1981, under section 26 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Lord Justice O'Connor agreed. Solicitors: Gamble for Southall & Co, Solihull; Sumal Crassey & Co, Leicester.

Divisional Court's power to substitute sentence

Universal Salvage Ltd and Another v Boothby
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann
[Judgment delivered December 9]

By section 111 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, there is jurisdiction in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on a question involving an error of law or excess of jurisdiction, albeit in relation to a matter of sentence, the Divisional Court has jurisdiction.

Where a contract was silent as to duration, it was neither permissible or appropriate to imply into it a term that the contract should remain in force for a reasonable time.

Lord Justice Goff delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Rice & Co, Chesterfield; Tuck & Mann & Giffen for Mr D. I. Morgan, Durham.

Imp permissible to refuse to hear objector

Regina v Bromley Licensing Justices, Ex parte Bromley Licensed Victuallers Association
Before Mr Justice Woolf
[Judgment delivered December 8]

It was wrong for licensing justices to refuse to hear an objection from an objector who they considered whether in grant an application for an occasional permission under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983, and it was wrong for those justices to grant one permission to sell intoxicating liquor to cover functions that took place on four consecutive evenings.

Time runs from dismissal

Lupetti v Wrens Old House Ltd
The three-month period within which an employee had in present complaint that his dismissal amounted to unlawful discrimination on the ground of his race, ran from the date of the actual dismissal, and not from the date of the decision of the industrial tribunal.

Transferring actions

Matz v Matz
Where proceedings were instituted between a husband and wife under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 in which a claim for financial provision was made, there was no general principle that all other proceedings between them should be transferred to the Family Division of the High Court.

La creme de la creme
SECRETARY P.A.
to the Managing Director
Leighton Buzzard: Bedfordshire
The Energy Equipment Company Limited, a subsidiary of Petrofina (UK) Limited, is a fast growing company at the forefront of energy engineering.

SENIOR SECRETARY/P.A.
London W.1
High-Point Services Group Plc who provide a complete range of professional advisory, management and financial services to the international contracting, the offshore oil and gas and allied industries, require two Senior Secretaries/Personal Assistants to work for the Group Chairman and one of the Group Senior Executive Directors at the Groups' corporate head office, High-Point House, 19 Fitzroy Square, London W.1.

SECRETARY
Business Affairs
EMI Records
We are looking for a young, lively person to join our Business Affairs team whose work involves the negotiating and drafting of contracts between the Company and its artists, producers, etc. and the contractual aspects of the licensing of recorded material by, and to, the Company.

Secretary/PA
£7,000 a year
The Sales and Marketing Director of a long-established nationwide financial company based in Chelmsford seeks a smart experienced audio secretary possessing first-class audio typing skills, able to work largely on own initiative.

BANKING
£9,000+ Profit Share
Gay Merchant Bank needs Secy. 24-25 for Sales Director for leading International Division, Skills 100%, preferably WP and banking experience. Benefits sub mortgage etc.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
£8,000 + CITY
Managing Director of small Financial Services Company seeks bright, efficient assistant for full secretarial back-up and office administration.

P.A. to SENIOR POLITICIAN
Senior Alliance politician requires very experienced P.A. with excellent secretarial skills, good telephone manner and ability to cope with large volume of correspondence.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ORGANISER
Are you Enthusiastic, self-motivated, organised, unflappable? Can you Get on with people at all levels, communicate effectively? Have you Excellent secretarial skills and working knowledge of word processing and a current driving licence?

FRENCH CONNECTION
We are the subsidiary of a French company, distributing their luxury fitted kitchens in the U.K. via a network of retail outlets. Our small team is based in N.W. London and we need an extra person to help us keep pace with our rapid growth.

Old Park Lane W1
Smart efficient and personable PA/Secretary required for property Co. in prestigious office.
Short hand and good typing essential. Ability to work under pressure and use own initiative important. Salary negotiable.
Tel. Lucinda Gough-Allen on 499 9986

PA to Fund-Raising Director
International Charity
The Director is moving offices to Central London and needs an experienced PA for secretarial services, admin support and to set-up office systems. Needs to be able to work independently at times and to deal with the public. Sense of urgency and of humour essential. Minimum age 27. Good salary offered.

URGENTLY REQUIRED
ITALIAN SPEAKING P.A.
An excellent opportunity exists for an intelligent enthusiastic P.A./Administrator to assist Director of large international company. Ability to work unsupervised and deal with command of English and knowledge of basic bookkeeping desirable. Preferred age 25-30. Salary £9,000.

PA/SECRETARY
SSAFA needs a responsible PA/Secretary for their new Chief Executive
SSAFA is a well-established service charity with a charitable status. The work is interesting and demanding and you will have the opportunity to work on a voluntary basis. Excellent salary and benefits.
Salary £9,300-5.15.
Apply 01-222 9221 Ext 33.

ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
(United Medical & Dental Schools)
Wanted for Medical School administration a mature Secretary/Admin Assistant with good organisational ability for combined post of Secretary in the Pre-registration Advisers, and Keeper of the old students records. Usual secretarial skills required and ability/willingness to use a personal initiative when given necessary. The successful applicant must be used to working on his/her own initiative but must also be able to work as part of a team. The person appointed will be expected to gain the confidence of senior medical staff and also young medical graduates.
Salary based on scale £7,346 - £9,348 plus inclusive.
Write applications giving full details to: MISS O.E.R. STAFFING OFFICER

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY
for our Deputy District Administrator
This is an interesting post combining administrative and secretarial duties. The post would suit somebody with initiative who enjoys organising their own work in a fast moving environment. Typing and shorthand skills essential.
Salary: £8,712 - £9,146 per annum inclusive.
For an informal talk about the post please contact: Tomie Sharpley on 01-690 9000 ext. 3531. Full description and application form available from the Personnel Department, St. Barnabas' Hospital, London EC1A 7BE. Phone 01-690 9300 ext. 3186.
Please quote reference: NLT/788.
THE CITY AND HACKNEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

SECRETARY
To work with the Private Secretary to the Director of Administration at the IFA's Headquarters in Knightsbridge. The work is varied, demanding and often highly confidential. It calls for integrity and the ability to work methodically under pressure, as well as excellent secretarial skills. Applicants must be educated to 'A' level standard, have 2-3 years' full secretarial experience, and preferably word processing training.
A salary of £6,554 - £7,974 is offered. Excellent conditions include 4 weeks' annual leave; pension scheme; staff restaurant; season ticket loan scheme; free car parking.
Please telephone 01-584 7011 ext 390 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays). An Equal Opportunity Employer.

EALING W5
PERSONAL ASSISTANT
£3,000
Small but expanding Entrepreneur Company, centres (with Middle Eastern and North African Markets) in Ealing, W5. The work is interesting and demanding and you will have the opportunity to work on a voluntary basis. Excellent salary and benefits.
Salary £9,300-5.15.
Apply 01-222 9221 Ext 33.

Secretary P.A.
Spoken Italian/Spanish.
For Export Manager of Computer Co. Details.
01-836 0637
K.P. Personnel Agcy

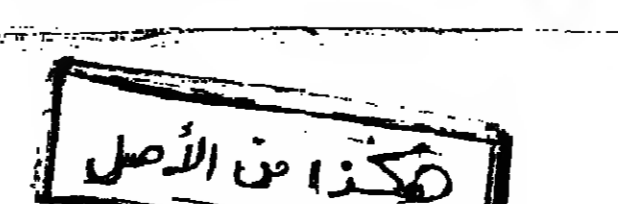
A Christmas Cracker
-£28,000 + Bonus
Add to the benefits! An exciting opportunity for a dynamic, energetic, self-motivated individual to join the Sales and Marketing Department of a leading national insurance company. The work is interesting and demanding and you will have the opportunity to work on a voluntary basis. Excellent salary and benefits.
Salary £9,300-5.15.
Apply 01-222 9221 Ext 33.

FRENCH
Fluent & written.
Knowledge German. Young secretary wanted for (1) job.
Heather Hammond Agency
t p 01-27-250
01-228-4750

PROPERTY DEVELOPER
SW1
requires shorthand secretary able to work on own initiative. Salary negotiable.
581-8313

SECRETARY/P.A.
Owns of small but expanding company based in Clapham. The work is interesting and demanding and you will have the opportunity to work on a voluntary basis. Excellent salary and benefits.
Salary £9,300-5.15.
Apply 01-222 9221 Ext 33.

INTERNATIONAL SALES
Rate/rising app Sales Rep 3
SALES CAREER/TRAVEL
£13,000
Fluent German + Bonus
TOP SECRETARY
£20,000
Academy/Top man
01-493-6212
J.F. CONSULTANTS
SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANCY MAYFAIR
Are you between 25-40, able to take a hectic office single-handedly, high salary offered to quick accurate typist with good memory and business instinct.
ERIC COOPER-KEY
Grafton Consultants
35 Over St, W.1.



Vertical advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'STYLISH SPACIOUS', 'OVERS', 'Le V', 'THE INTER', 'PROPERTY TO RENT OR', 'ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL', 'INTERNATIONAL SALES', 'SALES CAREER/TRAVEL', 'SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANCY MAYFAIR', 'Elizabeth Hunt', 'Eric Cooper-Key', 'Grafton Consultants', '35 Over St, W.1.'

Property Buyers' Guide

North of the Thames

STYLISH SPACIOUS Well appointed... Tel. 01-883 7894

FULHAM NEAR PARK AND RIVER 6 room fully mod. Edwardian... Tel. 01-883 7894

SW10 Would you like a beautiful modern... Tel. 01-883 7894

FLATS FOR SALE South Kensington... Tel. 01-883 7894

DUTCH BARGE-FOR SALE CHEYNE WALK 3 bedrooms... Tel. 01-229 0272

UNIQUE LARGE Victorian semi in Stanmore... Tel. 01-883 7894

SW17/BRISBANE, Sunday 1st Dec 2 bed... Tel. 01-883 7894

HONGKATE delightful 3 bed flat with... Tel. 01-883 7894

Residential property/Christopher Warman New homes for retired people

The firm has found that 80 per cent of the purchasers come from the local community... elderly mother and found a complete lack of any place that combined security and emergency help...



Country Property

Humberts

Kent 115 acres Best rated 1 mile, Maidstone and M20 2 miles... Wiltshire/Dorset border 9 1/2 acres

REMOTE FARMHOUSE

Cambridgehire 4 miles from nearest village... 239 745 on no. M166456 450.

BRIGHTON ROEDAN Unique Opportunity to acquire this magnificent family home...

ASSTEAD, SURREY House overlooking landscaped gardens... Tel. (071) 7447, 495-9364

LASTINGHAM N. YORKS Attractive 3 bedroom detached house in picturesque village...

ENCHANTING AND HISTORIC MILL 27 miles from London. Trout stream runs through secluded rambling garden...

COTTAGE IN MERE WILTSHIRE Small detached cottage with full kitchen... Tel. (071) 7447, 495-9364

BRIXHAM, DEVON Granite barn, ideally converted to a two-bedroom semi-detached cottage...

BERRISHIRE Country house, level plot... Tel. (071) 7447, 495-9364

Super Secs

SECRETARY The World Development Movement, Britain's principal pressure group...

RECEPTIONIST Required/West End We are looking for a very professional person to become the Receptionist at an exciting new property project...

SECRETARY Required by editorial department of William Heinemann Ltd (Moybar) a minimum of 1 year's experience...

SECRETARY The American College of London seeks a Secretary/Secretary Receptionist for property company...

SECRETARY A first class Receptionist to be involved in a major new housing development...

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Overseas Property

'Le Village' MARBELLA

SUPREME QUALITY VILLAS IN THE TRADITIONAL STYLE Uniquely spacious air conditioned and heated. Marble floors throughout.

Norwest Holst

WANTED: PROPERTY IN FRANCE TO RENT OR BUY The International Property Index now has a section devoted to France...

PARIS PIED A TERRE NR CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT 75 square metres, very spacious reception room, 3 bedrooms...

COSTA DEL SOL PARAIOS Direct sale, fully furnished 3 bedrooms, full kitchen, full bathroom...

SPAIN, COSTA DEL SOL 3/4 bedroom villa, over pool, close to beach, swimming pool, tennis...

FRANCE - One hour from Paris, beautiful landscaped grounds of a 1.5 hectare estate...

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Computer International

72 MONTEPIERRE STREET LONDON, SW7ING TEL: 01-895 2400, FAX: 01-893 3388

VILLARS-SWITZERLAND (N. 1,200-2,120ft) Centrally situated 1/2/3 bedroom and 2 bathroom limited apartments...

★ Authentic Swiss Alpine Village. ★ 1 1/2 hours from Geneva, easily accessible by car or train. ★ Excellent skiing and cross country skiing, several indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis, riding and superb marked walks.

We also have available timesharing in Villars Hotel Panoramic in the village centre comprising a heated indoor pool, bar, restaurant and underground parking from £4,800 for 1 week in March (+ 1 low season week).

SPAIN - COSTA DEL SOL between Marbella and Malaga. A very attractive, beautiful village with a central, beautifully situated, very attractive, beautiful village with a central, beautifully situated, very attractive, beautiful village...

ANZERE/VALAIS/SWITZERLAND Part sale direct from owner. The apartments with 3, 2 and 4 bedrooms, all with private, luxury, chalet-style buildings.

RIVIERA 2 bed house 75 sqm, in Les Lecques. Part of converted farm house. Part of converted farm house. Part of converted farm house...

SPAIN, COSTA DEL SOL 3/4 bedroom villa, over pool, close to beach, swimming pool, tennis...

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South of the Thames

PUTNEY 3 bedroom, 5/6th bungalow, spacious lounge/dining rm, kitchen, full bathroom and wc and sep wc. Lge loft space. Garage. Full gch. £100,000. Halstead 0787 473885.

CLEVER SQUARE, KENNINGTON (SE1) Grade II period house, river view. One of the last remaining unconverted houses offering 8 rooms, kitchen, separate WC, medium sized front garden. Full basement. £70,000. Freehold. View Monday. ANDREWS & ROBERTSON 703 2662

CLAPHAM OLD TOWN Large 3 bedroom Victorian house in quiet residential road off the Common. Many original features, gas CH, £97,500. Vacant Possession. 01-633 8790 (day) 01-622 7751 (even)

SW4 Overlooking garden and mature trees. 2 bed terraced flat. Fully equipped. Must sell at bargain price of £29,700 only. 01-730 8764

General Appointments

TOP LONDON BROKERAGE requires TRAINEE BROKERS for City Co. £12,000 during training rising steeply. Aged 23-35. Tel: Stephen Blair on 01-283 1633

EDUCATIONAL COURSES WOLSELEY HALL (Surrey) Successful house for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, full kitchen, full bathroom, full WC, full garage, full driveway, full garden, full view, full sun, full moon, full stars, full planets, full galaxies, full universe. £1,000,000. Tel: 01-883 7894

LEGAL NOTICES In The Matter of JOSEPH BEAG & CO. LIMITED and In The Matter of THE COMPANIES COURT dated 12th December 1983 that the creditors of the above-named Companies...

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS FRENCH SPEAKING MANAGER/Assistant Manager/Executive Chef and Pastry Cook. Excellent salary and benefits. Tel: 01-883 7894

RESERVE YOUR NAME AND New Year's Eve party. Tel: 01-883 7894

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS REQUIRED EXPERIENCED AN FAIR GIRL for London. Tel: 01-883 7894

CREME DE LA CREME Secretary required to work for team of producers in South West. Tel: 01-883 7894

SECRETARY Starting salary for Secretary to Manager of leading computer manufacturers. Tel: 01-883 7894

PA SEC IN FINANCE DIRECTOR Small London based Office of International Group requires Senior Secretary (age 25+) to cover Finance Director's department. Tel: 01-883 7894

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La creme de la creme

Executive Secretary £10,000 Superb opportunity to join go-ahead American organisation based in WI working as an executive secretary. Tel: 01-883 7894

CONFERENCE SECRETARY Age 18-20 Over 100 is Europe's leading Business Seminar Company. Tel: 01-883 7894

SRH/SECRETARY to £9,000 ann. A major international company in Central London requires an SRH with secretarial experience. Tel: 01-883 7894

MARKETING DIRECTOR Of well known City based merchant bank requires superb PA/Secretary/Assistant Secretary. Tel: 01-883 7894

SECRETARY Starting salary for Secretary to Manager of leading computer manufacturers. Tel: 01-883 7894

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

- 6.00 Breakfast AM. 6.30 Breakfast Times with Frank...

TV-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain, presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton...



Baroness Ewart-Biggs: Radio 4, 4.10pm



Terence Stamp and Carmen du Sautoy in Chessgame: ITV 9.00pm



William Golding: Channel 4, 9.00pm

BBC 2

- 5.35 News summary with subtitles. 5.40 Year of the French...

CHANNEL 4

- 5.00 Countdown. The second semi-final of the anagrams and mental arithmetic competition...

Radio 4

- 6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.15 Shipping Forecast...

Radio 3

- 6.55 Weather. 7.05 News. 7.25 Your Midweek Choice (I)...

Radio 2

- News on the hour (except 8.00pm and 8.30 (AM/PM)). Major Election 7.00pm...

Radio 1

- News on the hour (except 8.00pm-8.30pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00pm).

WORLD SERVICE

- 6.00am Newsweek. 7.00 World News. 7.30 Twenty-Four Hours...

FREQUENCIES

Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 106.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/36.8m...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

- HTV As London except: 10.25am Travel Log. 11.20-11.35 Poetry of Landscapes...

TSW As London except:

- 10.25am-11.35am Professor Kozal. 11.20am-1.30pm 5.15-5.45 Crossroads...

CHANNEL As London except:

- Starts 12.00-12.10pm. 1.20-1.30pm News. 1.30-1.45pm News...

Entertainments

Grid of entertainment listings including theatres (Dorland Warehouse, Bextek Reading), cinemas (Cinema 1, Cinema 2), and exhibitions (Young Blood, National Portrait Gallery).

